

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Fort McGilvray Historic DistrictOther names/site number: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey XBS-00013, XBS-00039, SEW-00040

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: Caines Head State Recreation AreaCity or town: SewardState: AKCounty: Kenai PeninsulaNot For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 X national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A ___ B ___ C ___ D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Alaska

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☒

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

64

1

sites

37

structures

24

objects

126

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/fortification

DEFENSE/military facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, wood, metal

Foundation: CONCRETE, WOOD/Log

Walls: CONCRETE, WOOD/Weatherboard, METAL/Steel, ASBESTOS

Roof: CONCRETE, ASPHALT, EARTH, METAL/Steel

Other: METAL/Steel, BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

On the small beaches and steep cliffs of Caines Head along the west side of Resurrection Bay, approximately seven miles south of Seward, Alaska, are the remains of Fort McGilvray, a World War II coastal defense post. Fort McGilvray was part of the extensive Seward Fixed Harbor Defense System built to protect the port of Seward, the terminus of the Alaska Railroad, and central access point into the Interior of Alaska. Encompassing roughly 700 acres, Fort McGilvray Historic District consists of four distinct geographical areas used for defense, command, and supply. Until the 1964 earthquake, a road system originating at North Beach linked the four locales. Today the Fort's wood buildings and structures, including the Quonset and Pacific huts, are ruins. But extant features with distinguishing military characteristics still convey the historic function and engineering of the post. At North Beach are the remains of a wood dock. At South Beach, evidence exists of the main cantonment. Panama mounts for 155mm guns remain at Rocky Point. And, atop Caines Head Battery No. 293, at approximately 675 feet above the ocean, is a fire control bunker, cement magazines, and Barquette mounts for two 6-inch guns. After 80 years, the concrete buildings and structures, including those at the main Battery, the ammunition magazines, gun mounts, and the hydroelectric dam, retain both architectural and historic integrity, and together, communicate to visitors an episode that profoundly changed Seward, the Territory of Alaska, and the nation—World War II. As part of the Caines Head State

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Recreation Area, the collective features, reinforced by the environmental setting, convey the military's extraordinary engineering effort and defense activities at Fort McGilvray and allow visitors to experience World War II from the soldiers' perspective.

Narrative Description

Seven Aspects of Integrity

Location

Fort McGilvray Historic district retains a high level of integrity of location. The Department of Defense chose the site due to its strategic position toward the mouth of Resurrection Bay. An accompanying site was selected on the east coast of the bay to create a crossfire defense. The cape extends approximately 1.5 miles into Resurrection Bay, with commanding views from atop its 650-foot cliffs. To the north and south of the cape, the beaches offered boat access to the remote area and level ground to establish the garrison. Rocky Point is a smaller cape that extends slightly over 1000 feet into the bay with an elevation of approximately 400 feet. All remaining buildings are in their original location, with building debris in proximity. The extant trail system follows the general route of the connecting roads, but some departures from the historic alignment are known in each of the locales.

Design

In contrast to the modern approach of construction, which would clear-cut all vegetation and create large flat pads for construction, the integrity of design for Fort McGilvray Historic District remains good. The district was designed to use the variations in the landscape as a means of defense. The buildings were built into the hillsides and valleys for their strategic benefit and camouflage. Natural resources, including the old-growth temperate rainforest trees, were integrated into the design to include rock barriers for protection, damming streams for fresh water supply, and natural foliage to hide their fortifications. The buildings were dispersed around the landscape to avoid aerial targeting. The pragmatic organization of the buildings plays a crucial role in depicting the military life of the service men and the mindset of the Department of Defense under the real threat of Japanese invasion. A section of the road between South Beach and Rocky Point was lost as a result of the 1964 Earthquake.

Setting

Fort McGilvray maintains a high level of setting integrity. The physical isolation of the area has helped maintain the natural, altered topography and human development present during the period of significance. Much of the natural vegetation that was cleared during the time of occupancy has grown back, while no new species were introduced. The relationship between the buildings and the natural environment powerfully conveys the historic significance and continues to recount the importance today.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Materials

The integrity of materials for Fort McGilvray Historic District remains fair. All the concrete elements of construction, including the fort, command centers, munitions storage, and foundations, have survived the test of time and harsh weather conditions. Many of the metal elements have begun to deteriorate, while most wooden elements are in ruins. Since the period of significance, little additional material has been added to include modern latrines and trail improvements.

Workmanship

The integrity of workmanship remains good. While the construction at Fort McGilvray does not exhibit a high level of ornamentation or artistic craftsmanship, it clearly illustrates the utilitarian nature of the district. Uniform military construction during World War II has been adapted and engineered to fit the needs of the Department of Defense on rugged and isolated terrain. The workmanship of Fort McGilvray Historic District can be seen in the speed and efficiency in which a massive amount of fortified construction was erected in inhospitable conditions.

Feeling

Fort McGilvray Historic District retains a high level of integrity of feeling. The concrete construction atop the cliff that overlooks Resurrection Bay conveys the sense of military life in rural southcentral Alaska during World War II. The cool, damp climate permeates the concrete fort while the plant and animal life replaces the human presence. The Military's adaptation to the unique environment is manifest in the access ladders nailed to trees, electric wiring strung through the forest, and the insulated pipes and wires.

Association

The integrity of association is high for the Fort McGilvray Historic District. The district has retained the command centers, munitions, storage, and gun mounts overlooking the bay that convey the properties' use as a military defense fortification. The building style, materials used, and evident technology indicate World War II-era construction. This district directly links to the emergence of military defensive fortifications constructed after the Japanese attack on Alaska.

Environmental Setting

Located on the southeast end of the Kenai Peninsula, on the isolated west shore of an 18 miles long glacially carved fjord named Resurrection Bay, is Fort McGilvray, a World War II defense installation. The City of Seward sits on a glacial plain at the Bay's headlands, about seven miles to the north. The U.S. Armed Forces built Fort McGilvray atop a granite land formation called Caines Head, named for Captain Caine of the *Santa Ana*, which brought the first non-Native, American settlers to Seward on August 28, 1903. The deep water fronting Seward afforded rare

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

year-round, ice-free conditions. Fort McGilvray's primary mission was to protect the open waterway leading to the port of Seward from an enemy attack—either by air or sea.

The Fort McGilvray Historic District encompasses four distinct areas: North Beach, Fort McGilvray/Battery 293, South Beach, and Rocky Point. The disparate locales are situated on small beaches and sheer cliffs that rise vertically 650 feet from Resurrection Bay, presenting a dramatic profile against a backdrop of towering mountain peaks and a panoramic view of the North Pacific Ocean. In 1971, the Alaska State Legislature established Fort McGilvray as Caines Head State Recreation Area to recognize the locale's recreational, scenic, and historical value. The same natural features that qualified Caines Head as a recreation area made it a primary coastal defense installation: Commanding views, moderate climate, marine accessibility from a nearby community service century, absence of majority land development constraints, a camouflaging canopy of mature spruce/hemlock, and the availability of freshwater. Although not as frigid as most places in Alaska, precipitation for the Seward area measures approximately 66 inches annually, including 80 inches of snowfall. Because of its higher elevation and southern exposure, Caines Head receives even greater snow and rainfall accumulations. In addition to the cold and wet conditions, enlisted soldiers exposed to the North Pacific endured constant winds and wave action that affected offshore boating and marine access. Barrier islands took the brunt of the Gulf of Alaska's most violent storms, giving Fort McGilvray a modicum of protection.

The steep elevation, surrounding glaciers, and high precipitation generate seasonally active hydrology. Six streams varying in water volume run through the district. The military was responsible for altering three of these drainages. Two small streams terminate at the North Beach Lagoon and Damp Lake. The northernmost stream served as a water source by the Army for the small encampment near the pier. The Army utilized the Minnesota Beach drainage by damming a small pond, creating a reservoir that provided the water supply for Fort McGilvray. Although running underground for the majority of the year for the last one-half mile, the South Beach Drainage served as a fire hydrant system and water supply for the South Beach cantonment.

The geology of Caines Head is composed of weakly metamorphosed sedimentary rock. Dark grey slate cleavages run parallel to the rock bedding. Beach material below results from the rapidly eroding slate cliffs, while above, a solitary glacier slopes to the northeast from Callisto Peak. The most significant geological impact to the historic district was the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, when the landmass around Resurrection Bay subsided approximately five feet, resulting in a substantial reduction of the rocky beaches around Caines Head. Large rock crevasses, ranging from ten to eighty feet deep, split the shoreline. The schism destroyed part of the South Beach Road, preventing access to Rocky Point by land.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Heavily wooded and dense vegetation surrounds much of Fort McGilvray and represents the northern extension of the lush spruce/hemlock forest found along the Pacific Coast of North America. Common undergrowth species include Sitka alder, devil's club, willow, blueberry, salmonberry, currants, and various mosses, ferns, mushrooms, and lichens. Above timberline, the low shrubs give way to seasonal alpine species of plants, including arctic willow, dwarf arctic birch, arctic wormwood, and various grasses, sedges, and lichens. Multiple flowers, such as fireweed, beach peas, and wild iris, surround the lagoons, bogs, and ponds in the summer month. In disturbed areas, the Army's road construction and other World War II clearings created an almost impenetrable understory consisting of second-growth spruce and, thick hemlock, alder, and salmonberry.

The soldiers stationed at Fort McGilvray would have encountered the region's extensive wildlife. Among the many terrestrial mammals that dwell within the area are brown and black bears, mountain goats, wolves, wolverines, coyotes, lynx, porcupines, marmot, and river otters. Enlisted men assigned to beach work or posts overlooking Resurrection Bay might have observed marine mammals, such as harbor seals, Stellar sea lions, sea otters, harbor porpoises, and killer, humpback, and fin whales. Bald or golden eagles might nest in the tall Sitka spruce trees surrounding their barracks. Large colonies of horned puffins, gulls, guillemots, black oystercatchers, murrelets, cormorants, harlequin ducks, and mergansers breed along the Caines Head headlands west to Rocky Point. All summer, noisy sounds of marine birdlife rose from the cliffs, filling the solitary silence of the soldier standing sentinel over Resurrection Bay.

Description of the Fort McGilvray Historic District

The deep waters of Resurrection Bay and the steep mountain sides of the glacier topping the Kenai Mountains isolate the Fort McGilvray Historic District. While it is possible to walk there from the nearby town of Seward at low tide, the primary means of access is by waterway. The McGilvray Historic District encompasses four distinct areas that served different purposes to fulfill the military objectives. North Beach is closest to Seward and most protected from the wind and waves that blow into Resurrection Bay from the Gulf of Alaska. This area served as the main embarkation point for military operations. North Beach military features included the dock, warehouse, and living accommodations for service men. Battery 293/Caines Head is located approximately 1.25 miles to the southeast of North Beach and includes most of the cape known as Caines Head. It sits atop the 650-foot cliffs with sweeping views of the bay. Notable features include the bunker, 2 - 6-inch gun mounts, and the tactical operations support building. Nestled in a heavily vegetated valley, South Beach is located one mile west of Battery 293/Caines Head. The majority of living facilities for the service men were located in this area, including barracks, dining facilities, and most utilities and administrative offices. Rocky Point is a smaller cape to the southwest of South Beach. This area included another tactical operation

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

center along the cliffside with search lights, gun mounts, a command center, and a submarine station.

North Beach

North Beach is the least developed of the four areas within the Fort McGilvray Historic District. The primary function of this area was centered around garrison logistics. The North Beach area is approximately a quarter mile long and between 20 and 200 feet wide depending on the tides with a gently sloping shale gravel beach and a small seasonally flowing stream on the north end. There is a naturally forming beach berm at the tree line that offers some protection from the surf. All structures are within 400 feet of the coastline before the dramatic incline of the mountains. At the end of WWII, the North Beach area comprised of a timber dock, three buildings, a privy, and one end of a terrestrial access point to the rest of Fort McGilvray.

The ruins of the timber piling dock remain on the south end of North Beach. This is the first identifiable feature to welcome visitors and is a familiar landmark for locals. The 300-foot-long dock was the primary embarkation point during the construction and use of Fort McGilvray. Immediately inland from the dock abutment is the foundation remains of a warehouse. The foundation consists of evenly spaced concrete footings and has a total footprint of 20 by 100 feet. Hidden within the tree line north of the warehouse used to stand two standard Quonset huts, measuring 16 by 36 feet, that served as enlisted men's barracks and mess hall as well as a small latrine. While the buildings themselves no longer stand, there is a pile of metal debris to include the structural framework and corrugated steel that used to be the roof in the general area. The road connecting the warehouse to the barracks used to run along the tree line behind a swampy marsh and was protected from the ocean by the beach berm. This section of road suffered from the catastrophic effects of the Good Friday Earthquake in 1964 and can be viewed only in a few flattened areas that have since overgrown.

The North Beach Road connects the dock to the rest of Fort McGilvray. It leaves North Beach just south of the warehouse and runs inland up the slope towards Battery 293/Caines Head. There are five ammunition magazines along North Beach Road spaced between one and three hundred feet apart. The magazines provide visitors with their first standing structures to explore. Each of the magazines is constructed following standard design, but they are sited in varying orientations by cardinal directions to ensure that the front of each building faces the dynamic road alignment. They are built of cast-in-place reinforced concrete covered with earthwork. They are approximately 14 feet tall and between 27 and 36 feet wide. They have an arched roof structure with a single ventilation shaft behind a concrete parapet and retaining wall. Each magazine has an extra-large single steel door reinforced with a concrete slab centered on the façade. The massive doors and reinforced concrete walls set the tone for the wartime environment and defensive mindset.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Shortly before the third ammunition magazine is a fuse storage shed. This small building is 20 feet long and made of a buried corrugated steel tube. The semi-circular interior is accessed through a decrepit wooden door on the south end. The north end used to be a subterranean wall that is now starting to fall in, covering the smooth concrete floor with dirt and leaves. On the east side of North Beach Road, about 500 feet past the last ammunitions magazine and 600 feet before the junction of North Beach Road, Road No.1, and Road No. 3, is the ruins of the ordinance shop. This debris pile includes dimensional lumber, sheets of corrugated steel, rusted pipes, and insulated wires.

State park rangers currently maintain the road as the primary means of access for the Caines Head State Recreational Area. Much of the trail includes four-foot-wide modern trail improvements, although the wider military road, measuring between eight and twenty feet across, is still evident in many places along the way. One such spot is a little over one mile up the trail from North Beach. There is a segment of the original bridge that measures 18 feet wide and approximately 20 feet long. It is sturdily made of 8 by 10-inch squared beams that have been treated with creosote. The bridge is no longer in use and lays adjacent to the modern path. In general, the historic road and modern trail follow the natural terrain and undulates through the forest with gradual gains in elevation through occasional switchbacks.

Approximately 200 feet past the discarded bridge, the road splits. One route goes southwest towards South Beach and is commonly called South Beach Road. The other, Road No. 1, leads southeast towards the bluff and coastal defensive positions.

Battery 293/Caines Head

Caines Head is a large cape that stretches a mile and a half into Resurrection Bay and terminates in a southeast-facing 650-foot bluff. This precipice offers the strategic vantage that drew the military to this spot in 1941. Battery 293 sits atop this point with grand vistas of the bay. Directly east across Resurrection Bay is Topeka Point, outfitted with searchlights and communications to support the coastal defense. Directly south of Caines Head is Fort Buckley with Battery 294 and matching 6-inch gun mount atop Rugged Island at the bay's mouth. Both installations are visible from Fort McGilvray and offer strategic triangulation to support harbor defense.

The Battery 293/ Caines Head area of the Fort McGilvray Historic District begins at the junction of North Beach Road, Road No. 1, and Road No. 3. At this intersection, State Park Services installed an orientation panel with a map of the fort to help visitors find the WWII features. Road No. 1 continues east before sweeping south towards Battery 293. State Park rangers have maintained the roadbed surface and brushed back much of the vegetation from the travel way to provide a recreational hiking trail. Road No. 3 has more vegetation intrusion into the roadway, allowing only a narrow footpath. Road No. 3 continues south towards the

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

cantonment area of Battery 293 before meeting back with Road No. 1 near the battery. Both roads continue to show the original road location, leveled roadbed and width of ten to twenty feet with push berms on the uphill side. There are a few spots where the downhill side of both roads has begun to sluff off the hillside, making the roads significantly narrower in the area.

WWII artifacts and ruins are visible from Road No. 1. Electrical wires, ceramic insulators, and metal pipes that once served as the utilities for Fort McGilvray are discarded on the sides of the road, strung through the trees, or hidden in the thick woods. Building and structure ruins are visible on both sides of Road No. 1., as it continues to rise in elevation towards Battery 293. On the south side of the road junction, approximately 100 feet east of the road junction with Road No. 3, a wooden debris pile is situated near a leveled "T" shaped depression that once composed the temporary Mess Hall. A 14-foot square of floor supports made of 8 by 8-inch milled lumber lays covered in moss, discarded with steel cables, ceramic insulators, and stove vent caps.

Several building depressions and scattered building debris represent the once-standing Pacific and Quonset Huts that served as barracks for the service men stationed there. Deep in the woods on the north side of the road are the metal remains of a standard Quonset Hut that slid off its foundation. It lays in a tangle with the trees, possibly due to a snow slide. The foundation wall of the latrine and bath house is located on the west side of Road No. 1 as it begins to sweep south towards Battery 293. The foundation wall is six to ten feet tall and made of cast-in-place concrete built partially into the hillside. The foundation measures 20 feet wide and 70 feet long. This building was never completed and has some of the wooden construction forms still in place and exposed/unfinished rebar projecting up from the top of the wall. A concrete pad on the north side of the foundation wall was meant to be a temporary staging area for construction. Between the foundation wall and the concrete pad is a deep trench with a large metal pipe and utility valves and vent covers. The construction materials and techniques are visible for this building. In addition, the unfinished building demonstrates the dynamic buildup at the start of WWII and the sudden withdrawal of the military near the close of WWII.

The Battery 293 is constructed of cast-in-place reinforced concrete and covered with earthwork as camouflage. The property has three entrances and no windows. There are sporadic vertical ventilation shafts around the mound. The main entrance recesses into the north side of the hillside and is flanked by sloping concrete retaining walls. On either side of the north entrance are two large pits measuring ten feet wide, twenty feet long, and ten feet deep that once contained 3500-gallon fuel tanks that ran the massive generators (since removed by FUDS) inside Battery 293. State Park Services have roped off the pits for hazard mitigation and to prevent injuries to visitors. A hallway stretches south with rooms on either side before terminating in a perpendicular hallway. The perpendicular hallway runs east-west with egresses on either side. This hallway has multiple rooms on the north side only. The two doors that face east and west exit directly to matching barbette mounted that once held 6-inch guns.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

The guns have long since been removed, but the 45-foot diameter concrete gun mounts stand sentry over the bay. The coastal artillery mounts were full circle recessed pedestals for a full range of motion. Thirty-two bolts protrude from the lower ridge that once anchored the massive gun in place. Immediately inland from either gun mount is a sunken barricade with a reinforced concrete pony wall to protect the gunners during live fire.

Directly atop Battery 293 is the Command Center. The Command Center features the same cast-in-place reinforced concrete construction covered with earthwork as the battery. A single door to the north opens into a single room. There are two metal bunk frames mounted to the north wall next to the door. The room contains the remnants of the communications systems on the east wall and a raised hexagonal pedestal centered in front of four horizontal slit awning windows facing southeast, south, and southwest. Three of the four awning windows still contain the original glass and wood frames. A steel track is mounted to the ceiling around the top of the awning windows with hanging steel shutters that could be slid into place as a ballistic shield when under fire. This room still contains wall-mounted brackets, electric conduit, switches, and ceramic light fixtures.

Road No. 3 deviates west from Road no. 1, approximately 150 feet south of the north entrance to Battery 293. Roughly another 150 feet further west, the road splits again. Road No. 3B goes downhill southwest for approximately 100 feet before t-boning into Road No. 3 while Road No. 4 heads traverse around the hillside northwest to rejoin Road No. 3 just south of the junction with North Beach Road.

On the east side of Road No. 3B is the timber piling foundation for a warehouse that measures 20 by 100 feet, the same dimension as the warehouse on North Beach. On the west side of Road No. 3B, right at the intersection with Road No. 3, is the footprint of a standard 16 by 36 feet Pacific Hut that served as barracks for enlisted service men. On the south side of Road No. 3B and Road No. 3 intersection is a large timber piling foundation that once supported the elevated Mess Hall. This structure had an "H" floor plan, and each end of the "H" measures 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. The connecting segment of the "H" measures 120 feet long and 30 feet wide. There is lap wooden siding debris, metal piping, a 55-gallon steel drum, stove pieces, ventilation pieces, and a fire hydrant on the east side of the foundation. Near the fire hydrant is a concrete fuel storage box partially below grade. There is an open manhole on top of the fuel storage box and metal valves, gauge, and piping disappearing into the ground towards the building.

Road No. 3 runs east before curving around the Mess Hall to the south downhill. On the east side of Road No. 3, across from the Mess Hall, is a timber piling foundation that measures 20 by 100 feet and used to support a warehouse. There are four similar timber piling foundations

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

southwest of the warehouse, between 60 and 100 feet apart, measuring 16 by 36 feet where standard Pacific Huts once served as enlisted men's barracks.

On the west side of Road No. 3 is the concrete footing wall foundation measuring 20 by 70 feet of the enlisted men's latrine and bath. Approximately 80 feet south of the latrine is a standing Quonset Hut modified and added to accommodate the laundry facilities. The arched Quonset Hut roof had been removed and replaced with a raised gable roof made of corrugated steel. The standard dimensions of 16 by 36 feet have been extended through a wood frame with lap siding to a total of 16 by 46 feet.

At the south end of Road No. 3, west of the laundry, are the remains of an atypical Quonset Hut. This building measured 24 by 36 feet and served as the fort dispensary. The rusted frame is still anchored in the foundation and partially standing. These buildings are excellent examples of the adaptability of Quonset Huts and how they were often modified to suit different purposes.

Road No. 3 continues west in front of the Mess Hall before sweeping north uphill to rejoin road No. 1. Road No. 3A branches off Road No. 3 to the southwest. This spur road was not surveyed due to the presence of aggressive wildlife. Settled on the west side of the junction of Road No. 3 and Road No. 3A is a pile of milled lumber that used to be a standard Pacific Hut that was the Arms & Supplies facility. There is a timber piling foundation and milled lumber debris approximately 200 feet northwest of the Arms & Supplies facility, on the west side of Road No. 3 just before Road No. 4 merges.

Road No. 4 runs northwest, traversing across the hillside, roughly parallel to Road No. 3. On the southeast end are the metal remains of an atypical Quonset Hut that was the Recreation Hall. This building measures approximately 24 by 60 feet. One hundred feet southwest is an Anti-Aircraft Magazine made of cast-in-place concrete with a heavy steel door. Just before Road No. 4 rejoins Road No. 3, west of the magazine, are building depressions and wood debris piles of four standard Pacific Huts that served as barracks for enlisted men.

South Beach

South Beach area begins where South Beach Road (occasionally referred to as Road No. 2) branches southwest of Road No. 1 and North Beach Road and continues for 1.3 miles before reaching the cantonment area. The park service maintains this road as a recreational hiking trail. The original military road measures 18 feet across and is evident in several points along this route, with push berms on either side of the road.

There is barbed wire wrapped in the trees on the north side of the road, approximately one-third mile down this road across from a pond. Just past the pond is a spur road overgrown with

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

second-growth spruce trees. The spur road leads to a steep embankment next to the stream that drains the pond. There is a trapezoidal concrete dam with a wide flat sluice in the ravine with a concrete slab foundation of the pumphouse on the south side of the stream.

South Beach Road continues to descend the mountain. A fallen transmission tower is approximately half a mile past the pond, on the south side of the road near the bluff. The large concrete footers are still anchored in the ground while the beams and steel pipes lay on the forest floor around the original location. There is a concrete foundation wall for the transmitter and wood debris directly inland from the tower. On either side of the tower, approximately 120 feet east and west, are two smaller concrete foundation walls for the two powerhouses used to operate the transmission tower.

South Beach Road eventually leads to a wide lush valley where the cantonment is situated. A large portion of this valley suffered the catastrophic effects of the Good Friday Earthquake in 1964. The massive earthquake caused a thirty-foot tsunami to rush into Resurrection Bay. This tsunami wiped out many of the buildings in the low-lying areas and spread construction debris across the valley floor. This includes the majority of the buildings that once stood on the west side of the cantonment.

The portion of the road maintained by the park, curves to the south, directly to the beach. The maintained trail deviated from the original road location slightly. On the east side of the original road, built into the hillside, are the remains of a two-story barracks constructed to house 63 enlisted men. The building footprint measures 24 by 80 feet. A smaller, unmaintained road is approximately 150 feet inland from the beach that heads west into the cantonment area.

The small road goes about 200 feet before meeting with a seasonal creek bed used as a secondary road through the cantonment. Approximately 150 feet north up the dry creek bed are the remains of the powerhouse and debris from the refrigerated cold storage building. These remains include a standing chimney stack of concrete brick, concrete column footers, metal brackets, piping, and ventilation shafts. There are large amounts of lumber and metal sheeting hidden in the mossy undergrowth.

One hundred feet east of the powerhouse and refrigerated cold storage building is the raised concrete foundation wall of the Recreation Hall. The wall stands approximately 3 feet above grade and measures about 30 by 70 feet. There is milled lumber, nails, and tar paper roofing material nearby.

Further up the valley are the foundation remains of two identical buildings. The foundations are square concrete piles with a one-and-a-half-inch steel bracket anchored in the top. The buildings that once stood on the foundations were Supply & Administration offices and

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

measured 24 by 60 feet. There are similar concrete footers closer to the dry creek bed that measure approximately 25 feet wide and 120 feet long that once supported the mess hall.

On the far northwest side of the valley are the remains of three 63-man barracks. These barracks were identical to those on the east side of the valley. There is a large amount of building material and partially standing portions of the first story. There is also the electrical wiring and remains of the heating stoves. Each of these buildings sits directly in front of the steep mountain sides.

The park currently maintains a small trail that leads up the mountainside behind the barracks. A quarter of a mile up the route is a large trapezoidal dam. The dam spans approximately 40 feet across the void, with 1-inch-thick bolts protruding out of the top at 6-foot intervals. The top of the dam is 1 foot across with a vertical wall on the uphill side and a forty-five-degree slope on the downhill side.

Rocky Point

The road that leads southwest around the cliff side from South Beach to Rocky Point was a casualty of the 1964 earthquake and is no longer safe to cross. The only way to currently access Rocky Point is via the waterway and a beach landing on the small rocky beach on the north side of the cape. The beach is nestled in a ravine steeply inclined on either side, with granite cliffs dropping into the ocean. A seasonal stream flows on the south side of the beach with timber pilings driven into the stream bed where the road once crossed.

The Submarine Loop Station is located on the granite outcropping on the north side of the beach. It is accessible by the original road running north at this point. The submarine loop ran a cable across the bay floor to another station on the east side of the bay to detect enemy submarines entering the bay.

The Submarine Loop Station included two power houses, a radio station, and a 12-man barracks. The two power stations were small wooden buildings on a concrete slab foundation, approximately 10 by 14 feet. The building walls and foundations are still in place, but the roofs have since collapsed. The ruins of the radio station are near the point of the outcropping and include milled lumber debris and partially standing walls.

The road leading southwest from the beach is easily identifiable as it is carved deeply into the side of the rocky mountain. The road leads uphill around the point of the cape to southeast facing bluff. On the east side of the road is an igloo munitions storage facility similar to North Beach Road at Battery 293. Immediately east of the ammunition storage are four Panama mounts for coastal defense guns. They alternate between the half-circle mounts designed for

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

155mm guns to the southwest and the three-quarters circle mounts for 6-inch guns to the northeast.

There are pathways trenched into the hillside connecting the gun mounts with the ammunition storage. Along the pathways are several recessed outcroppings. They are made of cast-in-place concrete knee walls supporting a semi-circular arched corrugate steel roof, partially buried in the hillside.

Inland from the coastal defense battery is building debris that includes milled lumber, nails, and tar paper. Remnants of electrical wires in the trees and several utility shafts in the crime are also evident. The utility shafts are concrete squares with an exterior measurement of 2 feet 4 inches square and an interior measurement of 1 foot 8 inches. The utility shaft drops six feet into the ground and served as a valve access for the fuel and water tanks. They have since filled with dirt and forest debris, so they appear to be between two and three feet deep.

The road continues around the cape inland and up a steep embankment from the battery to the Control Station and searchlight platforms. The road becomes impassable for about 600 feet due to dead fall and sloughing. The road becomes visible again along the ridge approximately one-quarter mile southwest of the battery and 150 feet higher on the bluff. It runs approximately 300 feet before terminating in a large landing used for turning around and parking.

The road passes by the remains of two Quonset Huts that served as enlisted men's barracks. Approximately 300 feet downhill from the landing, the first Quonset Hut has been reduced to framework and metal debris. The second, approximately 150 feet from the landing, is protected by the hill and is partially intact. While the roof has caved in, the walls are still erect and lined with coat hooks. There are the metal remains of the oil stove and 55-gallon drums.

Halfway between the Quonset Huts are the remains of the powerhouse and mess hall. The remains include two lumber piles of lap siding, nails, concrete foundations, and tar paper roofing. There are electrical wires affixed to trees and utility poles, and ceramic insulators running to this area. To the east of this area, several boards affixed to trees as a makeshift ladder are down the bluff to the east. The terrain is very steep, and the service men had to create a way to get to and from there without falling.

South and west of the landing are two cast-in-place concrete searchlight platforms. Each 12 by 14-foot concrete platform is attached to a 12 by 10-foot reinforced concrete bunker that is 12 feet tall, built into the hillside, and partially covered by an earthwork. The bunker had large wood double doors that were 6 inches thick and reinforced with steel that opened to the platform so the searchlight could be rolled in and out of the bunker as needed. Inside the bunker are electrical conduits, wiring, and insulators, along with ventilation and exterior lighting.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Inland from the searchlight and 200 feet higher on the bluff is a Control Station of the same design as Battery 293. This facility retains more original communications equipment and the bunk frames bracketed to the back wall. The service men stationed there built an oversized chair from the dismantled wooden ammunition crates that still sits in the Control Station. The labels from the ammunition crates are still legible.

Contributing Resources Description & Location

NORTH BEACH

1. E. M. Barracks & Mess Hall

Current Description: The **E. M. Barracks & Mess Hall** is a Quonset hut measuring approximately 16' X 36'. The Quonset hut frame was moved from the original location, and the remains of the steel frame are in a pile approximately 100 feet away. State Parks built a pavilion where the original building stood.

Location: The **E. M. Barracks & Mess Hall (F119, F120)**, is located approximately 150 feet west of North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 60.00815, -149.40796

2. Permanent Dock

Current Description: The **Permanent Dock** is a timber-pile dock, approximately 300 feet long. This dock was the main dock used to load and offload materials, supplies, personnel, and equipment for Fort McGilvray. The 300-foot-long timber trestle is no longer there, but the 50' X 100' dock structure partially remains.

Location: The **Permanent Dock (F124)** is located approximately 300 feet offshore from North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 60.006687, -149.404725

3. Warehouse

Current Description: The **Warehouse, measuring 20' X 100'**, is a wood-frame structure on a concrete pile foundation. All that remains of the warehouse are the concrete foundation piers.

Location: The **Warehouse (F125)** is located approximately 100 feet southwest of North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 60.006557, -149.405419

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

BATTERY 293 – FORT MCGILVRAY

1. 3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #2

Current Description: The **3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #2**, measuring approximately 10' X 20' with a capacity of 3,500 gallons, is situated on the northwest side of Battery 293. The in-ground concrete tank is constructed of cast-in-place concrete and covered by five 6" thick concrete slabs. These concrete slabs now lay on the ground near the in-ground fuel tank. They were likely removed during a routine FUDS clean-up. The open tank remains in good condition despite being open to the elements and partially filled with water and tree debris. The tank is protected by a large net to keep people from inadvertently falling in.

Location: The **3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #2 (R7)** is located approximately 20 feet west of the Battery Structure 293 North Entrance.

LAT, LONG: 59.98701, -149.39038

2. Survey Monument, 1943

Current Description: The **Survey Monument** is situated on the top exterior of Battery 293 at an elevation of 658 feet. It is likely bronze based on the condition and color of the metal. It reads U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE, SEATTLE WASH. SURVEY MARK. NO. WALKER 1943. It appears to read "\$250 Fine or Imprisonment for Disturbing this Mark". The monument embedded in concrete with a tar or asphalt coating surrounding it is in excellent condition.

Location: The **Survey Monument (R8)**, is located approximately 32 feet to the southeast of the Battery 293 Vent.

LAT, LONG: 59.98688, --149.39016

3. Battery Structure 293

Current Description: The **Battery Structure 293**, at an elevation of 630 feet, is situated on Caines Head, approximately 425 feet northeast of the closest shoreline. The Battery is located approximately 1.5 miles south of North Beach and 1.25 miles from South Beach Garrison using the shortest distance. The **Battery Structure 293** is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, measuring 136 feet wide on the south end and 75 feet wide on the north end, excluding the entrances. The structure is approximately 83 feet deep, running north to south with three main entrances. A fourth low-height entrance was likely used for utilities. The **Battery Structure 293** remains in good condition but is heavily visited due to its location off the modern-day trail (formerly the military access road).

Location: The **Battery Structure 293 (R9)** is located at the end of the modern-day trail from North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98681, -149.39016

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

4. **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #2**

Current Description: The **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #2** is located on the east side of Battery Structure 293. The gun was removed when the military disbanded the fort. The remaining gun mount is constructed of concrete and steel with an outer dimension of approximately 21'. An inner ring with 17 steel bolts would have anchored the gun to the concrete structure. There is evidence of a water-cooling system for the 6-inch gun that operated using drainage pipes at different elevations. The **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #2** remains in good condition but is heavily visited and exposed to the weather.

Location: The **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #2 (R10)** is located at the end of the modern-day trail from North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98676, -149.38953

5. **Battery 293 Vent**

Current Description: The **Battery 293 Vent** is in the center of Battery Structure 293. The vent is approximately 2' X 2' DIA. A cap that would have protected the vent from the weather is missing.

Location: The **Battery 293 Vent (R11)** is located on top of Battery Structure 293.

LAT, LONG: 59.98693, -149.39031

6. **Water Line/Sewer Line**

Current Description: The **Water Line/Sewer Line** utility corridor is located north of the fort. Water and sewer pipes may be buried at this location.

Location: The **Water Line/Sewer Line (R12)** is located approximately 50 feet north of the Survey Monument

LAT, LONG: 59.98715, -149.39043

7. **Battery Structure 293 North Entrance**

Current Description: The **Battery Structure 293 North Entrance** is located approximately 100 feet from the west entrance. The entrance measures approximately 10.5' X 13.5'. The rampart-style entrance walls slope to the ground on either side of the entrance. The exterior gate has wooden pickets over a steel frame. The north entrance gate is unlocked and in good condition but is weathering.

Location: The **Battery Structure 293 North Entrance (F8)** is located at the end of the modern-day trail from North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98701, -149.39034

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

8. Battery Structure 293 East Entrance

Current Description: The **Battery Structure 293 East Entrance** the fort is located approximately 135 feet from the west entrance. The entrance measures approximately 10.5' X 13.5' with an ammunition storage locker that extends approximately 6.5 feet on either side of the entrance. The rampart-style walls slope to the ground on either side of the entrance. The exterior gate has wooden pickets over a steel frame.

Location: The **Battery Structure 293 East Entrance** is located on the east side of the battery structure adjacent to the **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #2**.

LAT, LONG: 59.98661, --149.39006

9. Battery Structure 293 West Entrance

Current Description: The **Battery Structure 293 West Entrance** is located approximately 35 feet from the **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1**, providing close access to the fort. The entrance is approximately 13' X 14' with an ammunition storage locker that extends approximately 6.5 feet on either side of the entrance. The rampart-style entrance walls slope to the ground on either side of the entrance. The exterior gate has wooden pickets over a steel frame. The west entrance gate pickets have severe weathering, and a few are missing or broken. The concrete entrance walls and concrete header over the door are heavily covered in moss. This gate is also unlocked.

Location: The **Battery Structure 293 West Entrance (F9)** is located at the end of the modern-day trail from North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98675, -149.39058

10. Catch Basin

Current Description: The **Catch Basin** is part of the exterior drainage system located around the west entrance. The basin is poured concrete with two cast iron trench frames and gratings (Olympic Foundry No. 5455 (modified)). The Signal Corps Manhole drains to the **Catch Basin**, which then flows to the north catch basin, ultimately flowing offsite through a storm drainpipe. The drainage-water cooling system from the **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1** appeared to also be connected to this drainage system.

Location: **Catch Basin (F10)** is located adjacent to the west entrance.

LAT, LONG: 59.98674, -149.39064

11. Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1

Current Description: The **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1** is located on the west side of Battery Structure 293. The gun was removed when the military disbanded the fort. The remaining gun mount is constructed of concrete and steel with an outer dimension of approximately 21'. An inner ring with 17 steel bolts would have anchored the gun to the

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

concrete structure. There is evidence of a water-cooling system for the 6-inch gun that operated with water pipes at different elevations. The **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1** remains in relatively good condition, but there is heavy moss covering the structure.

Location: **Barbette Mount for 6-inch Gun #1 (F11)** is located adjacent to the west entrance.
LAT, LONG: 59.98661, -149.39073

12. Signal Corps Manhole

Current Description: The **Signal Corps Manhole** is a concrete structure with a passable opening and three small steps. This structure is likely a recoil block for the gunner to hide in during gun firing. There are drainage pipes that flow into the structure from the gun mount and pipes that flow out of the structure and into the Catch Basin.

Location: **Signal Corps Manhole (F12)** is located adjacent to the west entrance.
LAT, LONG: 59.98669, -149.39058

13. Oil Fuel Tank Covers - Tank #2

Current Description: The in-ground fuel tank was covered by five concrete slabs, approximately 5' X 12'. These 6-inch-thick cast-in-place concrete slabs are located near the in-ground fuel tank and likely removed during a routine FUDS clean-up. Several slabs have a tar or asphalt coating and large steel rings attached to them.

Location: The **Oil Fuel Tank Covers - Tank #2 (F13-F18)** are located scattered around the fuel tank.

LAT, LONG: (F13) 59.98693, -149.39073; (F14) 59.98688, -149.39085; (F15) 59.98684, -149.3909; (F17) 59.98685, -149.38953 (F18) 59.98702, -149.38953

14. 3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #1

Current Description: The **3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #1**, measuring approximately 10' X 20' with a capacity of 3,500 gallons, is situated on the northeast side of Battery 293. The in-ground tank is constructed of cast-in-place concrete and covered five by 6" thick concrete slabs lying on the ground near the fuel tank. The open tank remains in good condition despite being open to the elements and partially filled with water and tree debris. The tank is protected by a large net to keep people from inadvertently falling in.

Location: The **3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #1 (F19)** is located approximately 20 feet west of the Battery Structure 293 North Entrance.
LAT, LONG: 59.98701, -149.38983

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

15. Ammo Storage Fort Entrance

Current Description: The **Ammo Storage Fort Entrance** measures approximately 10' and 6.5' with two smaller openings measuring 4' X 5'. Two steel grate doors are detached and lay adjacent to the opening. The openings lead inside the fort.

Location: The **3500 Gal Oil Storage Tank #1 (F19)** is located approximately 20 feet west of the Battery Structure 293 North Entrance.

LAT, LONG: 59.98699, -149.39011

16. Fuse Storage Building E

Current Description: The **Fuse Storage Building E** is an Elephant shelter, an igloo-shaped building clad in corrugated metal. The back wall is exposed as it appears to have deteriorated down to one post. The **Fuse Storage Building E** frame and metal cladding appear to be in good condition.

Location: **Fuse Storage Building E (R91)** is located on the east side of the former road that connects North Beach to Battery 293 and the South Beach, approximately 55 feet off the modern-day trail.

LAT, LONG: 59.99313, -149.3911

17. War Reserve Magazine D

Current Description: **War Reserve Magazine D (WRM D)**, measuring 36' X 60', is entirely covered with 3' of earth and camouflage. WRM D is situated on the west side of the former road that connects North Beach to Battery 293 and the South Beach Garrison. WRM D is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and igloo-shaped concrete interior, varying in thickness from 6" to 1'. A steel frame door, cast in concrete with metal hardware, is in good condition. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers, and the floor is a poured concrete slab. WRM D remains in good condition but is heavily visited due to its location off the modern-day trail (formerly the military access road).

Location: The **War Reserve Magazine D** is located approximately 80 feet west side of the trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.99231, -149.39150

18. Former Road Bridge

Current Description: The **Former Road Bridge** is 18' wide with 10" X 8" bridge decking. The bridge is no longer in use and is currently not passable.

Location: The **Former Road Bridge (R94)** is located approximately 120 feet east of the modern-day trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.99521, -149.39696

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

19. North Beach Road Pull-out

Current Description: The **North Beach Road Pull-out** is 40 feet wide.

Location: The **North Beach Road Pull-out (R96)** extends 40 feet to the west of the modern-day trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 60.00151, -149.40138

20. War Reserve Magazine C

Current Description: **War Reserve Magazine C (WRM C)**, measuring 36' X 60', is entirely covered with 3' of earth and camouflage. WRM C is situated on the west side of the former road that connects North Beach to Battery 293 and the South Beach Garrison. WRM C is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and igloo-shaped concrete interior that varies in thickness from 6" to 1'. The steel-framed, cast-in-concrete door has metal hardware. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers. The floor is a poured concrete slab. The **WRM C** remains in good condition but is heavily visited due to its proximity to the modern-day trail (formerly the military access road).

Location: The **WRM C (F115)** is located directly adjacent to the west side of the trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.99273, -149.39119

21. War Reserve Magazine B

Current Description: **War Reserve Magazine B (WRM B)**, measuring 29' X 60', is situated on the west side of the former road that connects North Beach to Battery 293 and the South Beach Garrison. The WRM is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and igloo-shaped concrete interior, varying in thickness from 6" to 1'. A steel-frame door, cast-in-concrete, with metal hardware, is in good condition. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers. The floor is likely a poured concrete slab. An 8' X 8' wood-decked platform with 4" X 4" X 8' posts is located towards the rear of the interior of the WRM B. The WRM B remains in good condition but is heavily visited due to its location off the modern-day trail (formerly the military access road). There is evidence of camping taking place in this WRM.

Location: The **WRM B (F116)** is located approximately 50 feet north of the modern-day trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.99392, -149.39214

22. War Reserve Magazine A

Current Description: **War Reserve Magazine A (WRM A)**, measuring 27' X 60', is situated on the north side of the former road that connects North Beach to Battery 293 and the South Beach Garrison. The WRM is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and igloo-shaped concrete interior, varying in thickness from 6" to 1'. A steel-framed door, cast-in-

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

concrete with metal hardware, is in good condition. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers. The floor is a poured concrete slab. The **WRM A** is heavily covered in moss and vegetation and tucked away off the trail.

Location: The **WRM A (R93)** is located approximately 200 feet north of the trail (Road to North Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.99441°, -149.39353°

23. Building No. 6 - Latrine

Current Description: **Building No. 6 – Latrine** measures 20' X 70' and consists of poured floating foundation walls reinforced with rebar. Based on the as-builts, this building was never completed. Some of the concrete form boards are still standing adjacent to the wall. The foundation walls are mostly intact but heavily covered with moss and other algae.

Location: **Building No. 6 - Latrine (R14)** is located approximately 150 feet northeast of the trail (Road to Battery 293).

LAT, LONG: 59.98796°, -149.39160°

24. Road No. 1

Current Description: **Road No. 1** is the main gravel road that leads from Battery 293 to the Road to North Beach. The original width of the road, which varies between 18 feet and 21 feet, is not maintained. The overburden excavated during road construction is still visible as a berm along many road sections.

Location: **Road No. 1 (R16)** leads from North Beach Road to Battery 293.

LAT, LONG: Terminus at Battery 293: 59.98711°, -149.39070°, End at Road to North Beach: 59.98841°, -149.39384°

25. K.D. Mess - Temporary

Current Description: **K.D. Mess – Temporary** consists of a Knock-Down (K.D.) type of construction consisting of prefabricated walls that can be quickly brought onsite and assembled. Remains of the building include foundation piles and a partial timber deck. The as-builts do not list a structure number or building size.

Location: The **K.D. Mess – Temporary (R17 & R18)** is located approximately 120 feet southwest of the junction of Road No. 1, Road No. 3, and the Road to North Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98828°, -149.39323°

26. Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks** is a Pacific Hut measuring 16' X 36'. The building is now a debris pile consisting of wood and metal material.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: The **Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks (F3)** is located adjacent to the trail (Road No. 1).
LAT, LONG: 59.98862 °, -149.39301°

27. Section of Water Line Pipe

Current Description: **Section of Water Line Pipe** measures 30' long and has a 6" DIA. A piped water system that originated at the Upper Dam supplied the cantonment at Battery 293. This section of pipe is likely a section of that original water line pipe.

Location: The **Section of Water Line Pipe (F4)** is located adjacent to the trail (Road No. 1).
LAT, LONG: 59.98864°, -149.39252°

28. K.D. Commissary - Temporary

Current Description: **K.D. Commissary – Temporary** is built with a Knock-Down (K.D.) type of construction that consists of prefabricated walls that can easily be brought onsite and assembled. All that remains of the building are foundation piles laid out in a grid measuring approximately 20' X 60'. The as-builts do not list a structure number or building size.

Location: The **K.D. Mess – Temporary (F6, F24, F30, F31, F32)** is located approximately 30 feet northeast of the trail (Road No. 1).
LAT, LONG: 59.98830°, -149.39160°

29. Building No. 33 - Officers' Quarters

Current Description: **Building No. 33 - Officers' Quarters** is a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. The building debris pile consists of structural lumber debris, including a 3' X 3' wood box.

Location: **Building No. 33 - Officers' Quarters (F7)** is located approximately 75 feet west of the trail (Road No. 1).
LAT, LONG: 59.98831°, -149.39136°

30. U.S.E.D. Office

Current Description: The **U.S.E.D. Office**, measuring approximately 18' X 30', is the office for the U.S. Engineering Department. Currently, this building consists of a building depression and several wood building foundation piles.

Location: The **U.S.E.D. Office** is located approximately 95 feet southwest of the trail (Road No. 1).
LAT, LONG: 59.98828°, -149.39233°

31. Building No. 31 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 31 – E. M. Barracks**, measuring 16' X 36', is a Pacific Hut. The building consists of a building depression and debris pile.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: **Building No. 31 – E. M. Barracks (F25)** is located 25 feet southwest of the trail (Road No. 1).

LAT, LONG: 59.98854°, -149.39232°

32. Building No. 24 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 24 – E. M. Barracks**, measuring 16' X 36', is a Pacific Hut. The building consists of a building depression.

Location: **Building No. 24 – E. M. Barracks (F35)** is located adjacent to the trail (Road No. 1).

LAT, LONG: 59.98846°, -149.39368°

33. SCR-296 Powerhouse - 2

Current Description: **SCR-296 Powerhouse - 2** is a powerhouse. The building has a floating concrete foundation wall with parts of the metal powerhouse components still standing. The roof and stub walls are missing, and according to the as-builts, only the foundation remained in 1945. Moss heavily covers the foundation walls. It is possible the building was partly demolished to remove the generator(s) when the facility was decommissioned.

Location: The **Powerhouse - 2 (F75)** is located approximately 50 feet southeast of the trail (Road to South Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.98605°, -149.41692°

34. Quonset Hut

Current Description: This **Quonset Hut** does not appear on the as-builts or plans. Rusty metal debris is all that remains of this building. The wood foundation piles are likely still under the metal frame.

Location: The **Quonset Hut (F76)** is located approximately 40 feet northwest of the trail (Road to South Beach).

LAT, LONG: 59.98635°, -149.41698°

35. Building No. 18 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 18 – E. M. Barracks** is debris from a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'.

Location: **Building No. 18 – E. M. Barracks (R20)** is located approximately 130 feet southwest of Road No. 3.

LAT, LONG: 59.98768°, -149.39405°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

36. Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks** is debris from a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'.

Location: **Building No. 20 – E. M. Barracks (R21)** is located approximately 40 feet southwest of Road No. 3.

LAT, LONG: 59.98770°, -149.39331°

37. Building No. 1 & No. 2 - Mess Hall

Current Description: The remains of **Building No. 1 & No. 2 - Mess Hall** include round, creosote-coated timber piles with varying dimensions of 8"-14" in diameter. Metal debris from the stove or heating system is also visible on the surface.

Location: **Building No. 1 & No. 2 - Mess Hall (R22)** is located approximately 40 feet southwest of Road No. 3.

LAT, LONG: 59.98671°, -149.39251°

38. Fuel Tank No. J

Current Description: The remains of **Fuel Tank No. J** include a depression that once held a 1500-gallon fuel oil tank. The tank was likely removed during a FUDS clean-up.

Location: **Fuel Tank No. J (R26)** is located approximately 150 feet southwest of Road No. 4.

LAT, LONG: 59.98701°, -149.39241°

39. Building No. 21 – E. M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 21 – E. M. Barracks** is debris from a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'.

Location: **Building No. 21 – E. M. Barracks (F37)** is located approximately 50 feet northeast of Road No. 4.

LAT, LONG: 59.98799°, -149.39345°

40. Water Storage Tanks G & H

Current Description: The **Water Storage Tanks G & H**, each with a capacity of 25,000 gallons, are constructed of corrugated metal. As noted on aerial imagery, the outline of the tanks is still visible. A debris pile of wood and metal was discovered in the field, including metal pipe.

Location: **Water Storage Tanks G & H (F41)** are located approximately 75 feet south of Road No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98803°, -149.39331°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

41. Water/Sewer Manhole

Current Description: The **Water/Sewer Manhole**, is part of the sewer system that collects waste with a six-inch wood stave sewer line from the following buildings: from Battery 293, Building No. 6-Latrine, Building No. 1 & No. 2 - Mess Hall, and Building No. 8. – Dispensary. A 3-inch water line enters the manhole with a shutoff valve. A 2-inch water line connects to Battery 293. Another 2-inch water line serves the dispensary and the mess hall. The manhole is a concrete junction box with a steel lip and covers adjacent to a partially collapsed creosote-coated timber structure. The concrete structure contained the sewer manhole, and the wood structure housed the water box and valve. The steel manhole cover is dislodged and is currently in the bottom of the water service manhole. A 17-foot section of sewer wood stave pipe (6" DIA) was uncovered in line with a utility trench that discharged to the septic tank.

Location: **Water/Sewer Manhole (F98)** is located approximately 275 feet northwest of Gun #1.
LAT, LONG: 59.98688°, -149.39215°

42. Water Line Shutoff Valve

Current Description: The **Water Line Shutoff Valve** is a 3-inch steel pipe riser and fittings. The shutoff valve is missing. According to oral history records, the City of Seward was granted access to the site after 1945 to remove hydrants and fittings that could be reused. The hydrant near the Water/Sewer Manhole is not there anymore.

Location: **Water Line Shutoff Valve (F99)** is located approximately 85 feet northeast of the Water/Sewer Manhole.
LAT, LONG: 59.98708°, -149.39189°

43. Building No. 3 - Warehouse

Current Description: **Building No. 3 - Warehouse** is a Theatre Operations (T/O) type building, measuring 20' X 100'. The remains of the building include creosote-coated wood piles with tar paper on the top surface. Several beams remain attached to the foundation piles. A pile of moss-covered timber debris is also visible.

Location: **Building No. 3 - Warehouse (F100)** is located approximately 130 feet northwest of Gun #1.
LAT, LONG: 59.98681°, -149.39136°

44. Road No. 3

Current Description: **Road No. 3** is heavily overgrown, yet the road footprint is still discernable.

Location: **Road No. 3 (F101)** is located approximately 175 feet northwest of Gun #1.
LAT, LONG: 59.9868°, -149.39163°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

45. Building No. 39 - E.M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 39 - E.M. Barracks** is the remains of a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. A depression with a 3.5-foot foundation pile is all that is visible on the surface.

Location: **Building No. 39 - E.M. Barracks (F103)** is located approximately 180 feet southwest of Gun #1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98643°, -149.39162°

46. Building No. 43 - E.M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 43 - E.M. Barracks** is the remains of a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. Many of the 6" X 6" foundation pilings are still standing. Dimension lumber debris within the foundation is visible as well.

Location: **Building No. 43 - E.M. Barracks (F104)** is located approximately 180 feet southwest of Gun #1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98618°, -149.39204°

47. Building No. 5 - Latrine

Current Description: **Building No. 5 – Latrine** measures 20' X 70' with a partial concrete foundation wall. The large debris pile consists of asbestos wall material, wood debris, a door, and sewer pipe. According to the as-builts, the heating, plumbing, and fixtures were removed before the facility was abandoned.

Location: **Building No. 5 - Latrine (F105)** is located on the north side of Road No. 3, approximately 380 feet west southwest of Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98640°, -149.39279°

48. Building No. 14 - Laundry

Current Description: **Building No. 14 – Laundry** measures 16' X 46' with a 16' X 36' Pacific Hut joined to a 10' X 16' wood-framed building addition. The addition has a concrete foundation and is still standing, with most of the corrugated metal roof intact. The doors and windows are missing. According to historic records, the laundry equipment was removed when the facility was shut down. One lone wooden ladder remains standing inside the addition and is in good condition. The remains of the 16' X 36' Pacific Hut is a pile of wood debris. However, the addition is one of the most intact buildings still standing at Caines Head.

Location: **Building No. 14 -Laundry (F106)** is located on the south side of Road No. 3, approximately 380 feet west southwest of Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98621°, -149.39296°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

49. Building No. 8 - Dispensary

Current Description: **Building No. 8 – Dispensary**, measuring approximately 30' X 50', is a large Quonset Hut with a wood pile foundation. All that remains is the steel metal frame over a wood pile foundation. The metal Quonset hut frame is still upright. All the dispensary equipment was removed when the facility was shut down.

Location: **Building No. 8 - Dispensary (F107)** is located at the end of Road No. 3, approximately 550 feet west southwest of Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98618°, -149.39359°

50. Wood Stave Pipe

Current Description: A section of sewer **Wood Stave Pipe**, measuring 6" X 17', is in line with a utility trench that discharged to the septic tank. This wood stave pipe is most likely a sewer pipe as the water line in the area was a 2-inch service. Wood Stave Pipe is constructed by banding together staggered lengths of wood together in a circle. The pieces have a slightly beveled edge to ensure a tight fitting. The section of pipe visible on the surface is in remarkably good condition. It was likely constructed onsite during the installation of the sewer system.

Location: **Wood Stave Pipe (F108)** is located south of Road No. 3, approximately 365 feet southwest of Gun #1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98612°, -149.39240°

51. Building No. 45 – E.M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 45- E.M. Barracks** is the remains of a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. Building depression and several wood foundation piles remain.

Location: **Building No. 45 - E.M. Barracks (F109)** is located south of Road No. 3, approximately 385 feet southwest of Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98600°, -149.39244°

52. Building No. 44 – E.M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 44- E.M. Barracks** is the remains of a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. Building depression, wood foundation piles, and metal debris remain.

Location: **Building No. 44 - E.M. Barracks (F112)** is located south of Road No. 3, approximately 450 feet southwest of Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98585°, -149.3927°

53. Building No. 11 – Arms & Supplies

Current Description: **Building No. 11 – Arms & Supplies** is a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. All that remains is a miscellaneous wood debris pile.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: **Building No. 11 – Arms & Supplies (F113)** is located approximately 25 feet northwest of the junction of Road No. 3A and Road No. 3.

LAT, LONG: 59.98714°, -149.39326°

54. Junction of Road No. 3 and No. 3A

Current Description: **Junction of Road No. 3 and No. 3A** is only identifiable once Road No. 3A was identified.

Location: The **Junction of Road No. 3 and No. 3A (F114)** is located at the junction of Road No. 3A and Road No. 3.

LAT, LONG 59.98726°, -149.39293°

55. Building No. 4 - Warehouse

Current Description: **Building No. 4 - Warehouse** is a Theatre Operations (T/O) type building, measuring 20' X 100'. The remains of the building are a pile of debris and lumber.

Location: **Building No. 3 - Warehouse (R28)** is located approximately 300 feet northwest of Gun #1.

LAT, LONG: 59.98735°, -149.39171°

56. Anti-Aircraft Magazine B

Current Description: **Anti-Aircraft Magazine B**, measuring 36' X 60', with the shell varying in thickness from 6" to 1' thick, is entirely covered with 3' of earth and camouflage. The magazine is situated within the main Cantonment near Battery 293. The magazine is cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and an igloo-shaped concrete interior. A steel-frame door, cast-in-concrete with metal hardware, is in relatively good condition. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers. The floor is a poured concrete slab. The magazine remains in good condition and is not heavily visited by visitors.

Location: The **Anti-Aircraft Magazine B (F44)** is located approximately 500 feet south side of Battery 293, approximately 100 feet north of Road No. 4.

LAT, LONG: 59.98775°, -149.39258

57. Building No. 23 – E.M. Barracks

Current Description: **Building No. 23- E.M. Barracks** is the remains of a Pacific Hut, measuring 16' X 36'. The only remains of this building are a debris pile.

Location: **Building No. 23 - E.M. Barracks (F45)** is located approximately 20 feet north of Road No. 4.

LAT, LONG: 59.98774°, --149.39281°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

58. Building No. - Recreation Hall

Current Description: **Building No. 10 - Recreation Hall** is measuring approximately 20' X 60', is a large Quonset Hut with a woodpile foundation. All that remains is the steel metal frame over a woodpile foundation. The metal Quonset hut frame is still upright but twisted and mangled.

Location: **Building No. 10 - Recreation Hall (F46)** is located approximately 20 feet north of Road No. 4.

LAT, LONG: 59.98751°, -149.39214°

59. Transmitter Building – SCR-296

Current Description: The **Transmitter Building – SCR-296**, measures 20' X 20'. A concrete foundation is all that remains of this building. It is likely that this building was disassembled when the facility was dismantled. The as-builts only indicate a foundation present in 1945.

Location: The **Transmitter Building – SCR-296 (R77)** is located approximately 50 feet south of Road No. 2, along the Road to South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98616°, -149.41628°

60. Transmitter Tower – SCR-296

Current Description: The **Transmitter Tower – SCR-296** was used to transmit communication. All that remains of the tower are four-footers, with steel conduit pipes sticking out of the ground. It is likely that this building was taken down when the facility was dismantled.

Location: The **Transmitter Tower – SCR-296 (R78)** is located approximately 60 feet south of Road No. 2, along the Road to South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98616°, -149.41628°

61. Road No. 2

Current Description: **Road No. 2** is the road that connects Battery 293 with the South Beach Garrison. The modern-day trail between Battery 293 and South Beach generally follows Road No. 2. Road 2 is approximately 21 feet wide at this point.

Location: **Road No. 2** connects Battery 293 to South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 21' Wide Section (R79) - 59.98643°, -149.41635°, 18' Wide Section (R82) - 59.98925, -149.4107

62. SCR-296 Powerhouse - 1

Current Description: The **SCR-296 Powerhouse – 1** is one of two powerhouses, measuring approximately 10' X 20', used to provide power to the transmission tower and control building. The concrete foundation is all that remains of this building. It is likely that this building was disassembled when the facility was dismantled. The as-builts only indicate a foundation present in

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

1945. Currently, the foundation and miscellaneous large sheet metal debris is all that remains today.

Location: The **SCR-296 Powerhouse - 1 (R80)** is located approximately 20 feet south of Road No. 2, along the Road to South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98630°, -149.41556°

63. Dam Site

Current Description: The **Dam Site**, one of two dams, measures 15'. The concrete dam is still in place and functioning.

Location: The **Dam Site** is located approximately 3000 feet, in a direct line, from Battery 293 and located south of Road No. 2.

LAT, LONG: 59.99053°, -149.40445°

64. Pump House

Current Description: The **Pump House** was used to pump water approximately 3,000 feet to the water distribution system at the Battery 293 cantonment. The concrete foundation walls are all that remain of the pump house. The generator and other equipment were likely removed when the facility was abandoned.

Location: The **Pump House** is located approximately 3000 feet, in a direct line, from Battery 293, and located south of Road No. 2.

LAT, LONG: 59.99050°, -149.40421°

65. Powerhouse Station

Current Description: The **Powerhouse Station**, measuring 10' X 20', generated electricity to run the pumphouse. The concrete foundation walls are all that remain of the pump house. The generator and other equipment were likely removed when the facility was abandoned.

Location: The **Powerhouse Station** is located approximately 3000 feet, in a direct line, from Battery 293, and located south of Road No. 2.

LAT, LONG: None

SOUTH BEACH GARRISON

1. Recreation - RB-2

Current Description: The **Recreation - RB-2** is approximately 20' X 70'. All that remains of the recreation building is a brick chimney, dimensional lumber, and various building debris. The building foundation is woodpile with some piles still visible.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: The **Recreation - RB-2 (R29)** is located approximately 350 feet northwest of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.982866°, -149.424845°

2. Mess Hall - Building No. M-250

Current Description: The **Mess Hall - Building No. M-250** is an approximately 20' X 70' wood-frame building on a concrete pier and beam foundation. All that remains of the Mess Hall are the moss-covered concrete piers with metal brackets and the gravel substrate that was used as fill under the building.

Location: The **Mess Hall - Building No. M-250 (R31, R33, F94, F96, F97)** is located approximately 320 feet west of the modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983409°, -149.424909°

3. Concrete Slab in Creek

Current Description: The **Concrete Slab in Creek** is approximately 5' X 12'. The concrete slab may have been used as a bridge over the creek. Another concrete slab, with roughly the same dimensions, is in the same creek at another potential crossing point.

Location: The **Concrete Slab in Creek (R32)** is located approximately 300 feet west of modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983543°, -149.424779°

4. Barracks - Building No. 9

Current Description: The **Barracks - Building No. 9** is a World War II B-63 Type wood-frame building, measuring 30' X 80' on a concrete pier and beam foundation. The barracks were still standing in 1985, as shown in Figure 1. In 2021, the barracks have been reduced to one partial wall still standing. A doorway is still visible amidst a pile of moss-covered debris.



Figure 1 First Floor of Barracks - Building No. 9 in 1985

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: The **Barracks - Building No. 9 (R33)** is located approximately 315 feet west of modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983726°, -149.424841°

5. Barracks - Building No. 8

Current Description: The **Barracks - Building No. 8** is a World War II B-63 Type wood-frame building, measuring 30' X 80', on a concrete pier and beam foundation. The barracks were partially standing in 1985. In 2021, the barracks have been reduced to a pile of moss-covered debris.

Location: The **Barracks - Building No. 8 (R35)** is located approximately 530 feet west of modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983293°, -149.425997°

6. Barracks - Building No. 10

Current Description: The **Barracks - Building No. 10** is a World War II B-63 Type wood-frame building, measuring 30' X 80' on a concrete pier and beam foundation. The barracks were partially standing in 1985. In 2021, the barracks have been reduced to a large pile of moss-covered wood debris. One concrete pier is still visible under the moss-covered debris pile.

Location: The **Barracks - Building No. 10 (R35)** is located approximately 600 feet southwest of modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.982961°, -149.426218°

7. Power Pole with Two Cross-Arms

Current Description: The **Power Pole with Two Cross-Arms** is in the vicinity of Building No. 10. The pole has two guy wires attached to two large metal stakes in the ground. The power pole is in good condition, but the electrical wires are no longer visible.

Figure 2 - First Floor of Barracks - Building No. 9 in 1985

Location: The **Power Pole with Two Cross-Arms (R39)** is located approximately 550 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.982795°, -149.426686°

8. Power Pole with Three Cross-Arms

Current Description: The **Power Pole with Three Cross-Arms** is in the vicinity of the Powerhouse. The pole has three sets of cross arms and two guy wires attached to two large metal stakes in the ground. The power pole is in good condition, but the electrical wires are no longer visible.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: The **Power Pole with Three Cross-Arms (R40)** is located approximately 340 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.982561, -149.42546°

9. Building No. 7 - Supply & Administration

Current Description: **Building No. 7 - Supply & Administration**, measuring approximately 25' X 60', is a wood frame building on a floating concrete foundation wall. All that remains is the concrete foundation and various metal and debris.

Location: **Building No. 7 - Supply & Administration (R41, R43)** is located approximately 260 feet southwest of modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983207°, -149.425997°

10. Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve

Current Description: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve** were manufactured in 1941 by the Kennedy Valve Manufacturing Company (Kennedy Valve) based in Elmira, New York. In 1940 Kennedy Valve received three Maritime Commission awards to manufacture eight million valves for the Victory Fleet. This hydrant was likely connected to this order. The hydrant and valve are in excellent condition.

Location: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve (R42)** is located approximately 50 feet northwest of **Building No. 7 - Supply & Administration**.

LAT, LONG: 59.983245 °, -149.424107 °

11. Sewer Manhole

Current Description: The **Sewer Manhole** has a sewer pipe extended up into the manhole.

Location: The **Sewer Manhole (R44, F95)** is located approximately 230 feet west of the modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983621°, -149.424438°

12. Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve

Current Description: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve** were manufactured in 1941 by the Kennedy Valve Manufacturing Company (Kennedy Valve) based in Elmira New York. In 1940 Kennedy Valve received three Maritime Commission awards to manufacture eight million valves for the Victory Fleet. This hydrant was likely connected to this order. The hydrant and valve are in excellent condition; however, this hydrant is half-buried in vegetation.

Location: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve (R45)** is located approximately 30 feet northwest of the **Mess Hall - Building No. M-250**.

LAT, LONG: 59.983742°, -149.424368°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

13. Building No. 4 - Supply & Administration

Current Description: **Building No. 4 - Supply & Administration**, measuring approximately 25' X 60', is a wood frame building on a floating concrete foundation wall. All that remains of the structure is the concrete foundation.

Location: The **Building No. 4 - Supply & Administration (R46)** is located approximately 150 feet east of the modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.983911°, -149.423928°

14. Upper Dam

Current Description: The **Upper Dam**, the second of two dams, measures 40' and 12" thick at the top. The concrete dam is still in place and functioning.

Location: The **Upper Dam (R75)** is located approximately 600 feet north of the modern-day trail (Road No. 2).

LAT, LONG: 59.985021°, -149.423952°

15. Buried Timbers

Current Description: The **Buried Timbers** are partially exposed on the beach near the tree line. There is a large metal bolt attached to two of the beams. The beams may have been part of the temporary South Beach dock. This dock was disassembled by the military during the war.

Location: The **Buried Timbers (F48)** is located approximately along South Beach at the high tide line near the tree line.

LAT, LONG: 59.981543 °, -149.425514°

16. Large Metal Drum

Current Description: The **Large Metal Drum** is heavily rusted and likely part of the lower South Beach Garrison area.

Location: The **Large Metal Drum (F49)** is located approximately 60 feet south of the Platting Room.

LAT, LONG: 59.98169°, -149.427004°

17. Barracks CCC

Current Description: The **Barracks CCC** is a long narrow building, measuring approximately 25' X 170'. The Barracks was likely constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the early stages of the development of the South Beach Garrison.

Location: The **Barracks CCC (F50, F64)** is located approximately 330 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98169°, -149.427004°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

18. Wires Attached to Tree

Current Description: **Wires Attached to Tree** were commonly used in South Beach in place of some of the electrical poles. Wires were also attached to trees as electrical services to various buildings.

Location: The **Wires Attached to Tree (F51)** is located approximately 10 feet north of the Platting Room & Barrack.

LAT, LONG: 59.98218°, -149.42644 °

19. Secondary Road

Current Description: The **Secondary Road** is a 950-foot section that connects South Beach to the Road to Rocky Point near Building No. 8 – Barracks and the Mess Hall. This road is somewhat well defined and built over an existing intermittent stream. Remains of a wood boardwalk or other structure are still in the stream bed in several locations along the road.

Location: The **Secondary Road (F52, F58)** is located approximately 100 feet north of the South Beach tree line.

LAT, LONG: 59.981878°, -149.425918°

20. Plotting Room & Barrack

Current Description: The **Plotting Room & Barrack** is a small building, measuring approximately 20' X 25', is clad with green-painted shiplap wood siding. The building was used exclusively by the men who plotted the location for targets to shoot at with the large Barbette 155mm guns that originally were stationed at South Beach. The building timbers are still visible on the surface as the remains of a collapsed building. Electrical fittings were also still attached to some sections of the building.

Location: The **Barracks CCC (F57, F67)** is located approximately 350 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.982152°, -149.426463°

21. Garage

Current Description: The **Garage** is a small building, measuring approximately 15' X 20'. The building was likely a storage building for the personnel conducting the plotting. All that remains of the garage is miscellaneous debris.

Location: The **Garage (F60)** is located approximately 200 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98184°, -149.42621°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

22. Water Line Pipe with Trace Wire

Current Description: The **Water Line Pipe with Trace Wire** is a section of 3" DIA water line pipe with electrical wire trace wrapped around it. The pipe is located approximately 50 feet east of the existing surface water line pipe that serviced the lower South Beach buildings.

Location: The **Water Line Pipe with Trace Wire (F62)** is located approximately 50 feet west of the Road to Rocky Point.

LAT, LONG: 59.982536°, -149.426811°

23. Fuel Line Pipe and Electrical Conduit

Current Description: The **Fuel Line Pipe and Electrical Conduit** is miscellaneous debris located downstream of the Kitchen & Mess in the lower South Beach area. Most of the lower South Beach area was built below 30 below sea level. This area was heavily destroyed by a tsunami generated by the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

Location: The **Fuel Line Pipe and Electrical Conduit (F63)** is located approximately 350 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98211°, -149.42669 °

24. Road Linking Secondary to Rocky Point Road

Current Description: The **Road Linking Secondary to Rocky Point Road** is a 300-foot section of road that connects Secondary Road in South Beach to the Road to Rocky Point. This road also leads to the lower South Beach Infirmary, Barracks CCC, Latrine, Kitchen & Mess, and Platting Room. Little of the original road was visible in 2021 due to the extremely dense vegetation overgrowth.

Location: The **Road Linking Secondary to Rocky Point Road (F65)** is located approximately 100 feet north of the South Beach tree line.

LAT, LONG: 59.981774°, -149.426427°

25. Warehouse

Current Description: The **Warehouse** is a small building, measuring approximately 20' X 40'. The building was likely the warehouse for the lower South Beach Garrison. This building is within the 1964 tsunami wave zone, and only a trench and an elevated gravel building pad remain.

Location: The **Warehouse (F71)** is located approximately 235 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.982651°, -149.424159°

26. Barracks - Building No. 2

Current Description: The **Barracks - Building No. 2** is a World War II B-63 Type wood-frame building, measuring 30' X 80' on a concrete pier and beam foundation. The barracks were likely

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

partially standing in 1985. In 2021, the barracks have been reduced to large brick chimney, large metal furnaces and appurtenances, and fallen wood-frame walls. Concrete piers are likely still standing under the debris pile.

Location: The **Barracks - Building No. 2 (F72, F73)** is located approximately 375 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.98299°, -149.422897°

27. Navy Barracks

Current Description: The **Navy Barracks** is a wood-frame building measuring approximately 20' X 40'. It was likely constructed on a concrete pier and beam foundation like the other barracks in South Beach. Some of the barracks walls are still intact, but the building has collapsed.

Location: The **Navy Barracks (F74)** is located approximately 80 feet east of Road No. 2.

LAT, LONG: 59.983589°, -149.423124°

28. Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve

Current Description: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve** were manufactured in 1941 by the Kennedy Valve Manufacturing Company (Kennedy Valve) based in Elmira New York. In 1940 Kennedy Valve received three Maritime Commission awards to manufacture eight million valves for the Victory Fleet. This hydrant was likely connected to this order. The hydrant and valve are in good condition.

Location: The **Hydrant & 6" Gate Valve (F91)** is located approximately 650 feet north of South Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.983229°, -149.425400°

ROCKY POINT

1. Road to Rocky Point Search Lights

Current Description: The **Road to Rocky Point Search Lights** leads to the searchlight stations and the Base End Station (command station). The road only extends approximately 100 feet before it disappears and is no longer accessible.

Location: The **Road to Rocky Point Search Lights (R50)** is located approximately 365 feet west of Rocky Point Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.974411°, -149.432173°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

2. Rocky Point Bridge

Current Description: The **Rocky Point Bridge**, measuring approximately 25' X 40', crosses a glacial stream along Rocky Point Road. The bridge abutments and bridge piling are still visible, but most of the bridge has washed out.

Location: The **Rocky Point Bridge (R51, R60)** is located approximately 280 feet west of Rocky Point Beach.

LAT, LONG: 59.974497°, -149.431752°

3. Building No. 1 - Quonset Hut

Current Description: **Building No. 1 - Quonset Hut**, measuring approximately 16' X 36', is one of two barracks housing Rocky Point personnel. The building is still standing, with the siding and framing intact.

Location: **Building No. 1 - Quonset Hut (R62)** is located approximately 850 feet west of Barquette Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.972834°, -149.432525°

4. Building D - Searchlight Bunker with Platform

Current Description: The **Searchlight Bunker with Platform** is a concrete building with steel doors on the north side. Building and platform are standing and in good condition.

Location: The **Searchlight Bunker with Platform (R64)** is located approximately 840 feet west of Barquette Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.972501°, -149.432323°

5. Building A - East End Base Station

Current Description: The **East End Base Station** is a concrete building measuring approximately 15' X 25' with horizontal gun sight windows. The building is in good condition. A chair constructed from ammunition boxes is still in the building.

Location: The **East End Base Station (R65)** is located approximately 100 feet west of **Building D - Searchlight Bunker with Platform**.

LAT, LONG: 59.972469°, -149.43343°

6. Building No. 3

Current Description: **Building No. 3**, measuring approximately 15' X 25', is a wood frame building. All that remains is a pile of building debris.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: **Building No. 3 (R69)** is located approximately 200 feet north of **Building D - Searchlight Bunker with Platform.**

LAT, LONG: 59.97298°, -149.432055°

7. Building E & F - Search Light Shelter #2

Current Description: The **Building E & F - Search Light Shelter #2**, measuring approximately 15' X 25', is a concrete foundation. All that remains is the concrete foundation.

Location: The **Building E & F - Search Light Shelter #2 (R70)** is located approximately 850 feet southwest of Barbette Gun No. 1.

LAT, LONG: 59.972824°, -149.431916°

8. Gun Mount No. 1 - Barbette 155mm

Current Description: The **Gun Mount No. 1 - Barbette 155mm** is a concrete, D-shaped gun mount that measures approximately 35 feet at its diameter. The 155mm gun was removed in 1944 when the military base was closed. The gun mount is covered in moss and tree debris, but it is still visible. A steel drainage grate in the middle is still visible.

Location: The **Gun Mount No. 1 - Barbette 155mm (F78)** is located approximately 35 feet northwest of Resurrection Bay.

LAT, LONG: 59.973329°, -149.428043°

9. Gun Mount No. 2 - Barbette 155mm

Current Description: The **Gun Mount No. 2 - Barbette 155mm** is a concrete, Pacman-shaped mount that measures approximately 35 feet at its diameter. The 155mm gun was removed in 1944 when the military base was closed. The gun mount is heavily covered in moss and tree debris, but it is still visible.

Location: The **Gun Mount No. 2 - Barbette 155mm (F79)** is located approximately 50 feet northwest of Resurrection Bay.

LAT, LONG: 59.973503°, -149.42783°

10. Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 1

Current Description: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 1** consists of a six-foot-tall concrete wall with staggered sections to function as a recoil block. The ammo storage structure, measuring 12' X 6', includes two storage bays that are constructed on a 2 ½ foot concrete foundation. A corrugated metal igloo structure covers both bays. A wooden structure covers the passageway between the recoil block and the ammo storage bays. Remnants of the wooden structure are visible, but most of it has decayed. The remainder of the structure is mostly intact.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Location: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 1 (F80)** is located approximately 50 feet west of **Gun Mount No. 2 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.973522°, -149.428084°

11. Gun Mount No. 3 - Barbette 155mm

Current Description: The **Gun Mount No. 3 - Barbette 155mm** is a concrete, D-shaped mount that measures approximately 35 feet at its diameter. The 155mm gun was removed in 1944 when the military base was closed. The gun mount is heavily covered in moss and tree debris, but it is still visible.

Location: The **Gun Mount No. 3 - Barbette 155mm (F81)** is located approximately 60 feet northwest of Resurrection Bay.

LAT, LONG: 59.973605°, -149.427524°

12. Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 2

Current Description: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 2** consists of a six-foot-tall concrete wall with staggered sections to function as a recoil block. The ammo storage structure, measuring 12' X 6', includes two storage bays that are constructed on a 2 ½ foot concrete foundation. A corrugated metal igloo structure covers both bays. A wooden structure covers the passageway between the recoil block and the ammo storage bays. Part of the wooden structure remains. The remainder of the structure is mostly intact.

Location: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 2 (F82)** is located approximately 40 feet northwest of **Gun Mount No. 3 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.973731°, -149.427591°

13. Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm

Current Description: The **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm** is a concrete, Pacman-shaped mount that measures approximately 35 feet at its diameter. The 155mm gun was removed in 1944 when the military base was closed. The gun mount is heavily covered in moss and tree debris, but it is still visible.

Location: The **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm (F83)** is located approximately 60 feet northwest of Resurrection Bay.

LAT, LONG: 59.973795°, -149.427224°

14. Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 3

Current Description: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 3** consists of a six-foot-tall concrete wall with staggered sections to function as a recoil block. The ammo storage structure, measuring 12' X 6', includes two storage bays that are constructed on a 2 ½ foot concrete foundation. A corrugated metal igloo structure covers both bays. A wooden structure covers

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

the passageway between the recoil block and the ammo storage bays. Part of the wooden structure remains. The remainder of the structure is mostly intact.

Location: The **Ammo Storage and Gun Recoil Block 3 (F84)** is located approximately 40 feet northwest of **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.973837°, -149.427416°

15. Magazine

Current Description: The **Magazine**, measuring 45' X 60', was entirely covered with 3' of earth and camouflage. It is situated at the end of Rocky Point Road near the four Barbett 155mm guns. The magazine is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, with an angular façade and igloo-shaped concrete interior, varying in thickness from 6" to 1'. A steel-frame door, cast in concrete with metal hardware, is in good condition. The foundation is constructed of cast-in-place concrete footers. The floor is a poured concrete slab. The magazine remains in good condition.

Location: The **Magazine (F85, F86)** is located approximately 50 feet southwest of **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.973613°, -149.427972°

16. Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 2

Current Description: The **Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 2**, measuring 10' X 15', is a wood frame structure with green painted shiplap siding. The building has a shed roof, one door, and four glass-paned windows. The building sits on a concrete foundation and provides power to the Submarine Loop Station. The building is still standing, but the roof is missing, and the shiplap siding is heavily weathered. One window still has two panes of glass remaining.

Location: The **Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 2 (F87)** is located approximately 1200 feet northwest of **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.975744°, -149.432471°

17. Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 1

Current Description: The **Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 1**, measuring 10' X 15', is a wood frame structure with green painted shiplap siding. The building has a shed roof, one door, and four glass-paned windows. The building sits on a concrete foundation and provides power to the Submarine Loop Station. The building is still standing, but the roof is missing. One window still has a pane of glass.

Location: The **Submarine Loop Station Powerhouse No. 2 (F88)** is located approximately 1100 feet northwest of **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm**.

LAT, LONG: 59.975578°, -149.431993°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

18. Submarine Loop Station

Current Description: The **Submarine Loop Station**, measuring 12' X 35', is a wood frame structure. The building is in ruin. One corner of the building is still standing.

Location: The **Submarine Loop Station (F89)** is located approximately 1000 feet northwest of **Gun Mount No. 4 - Barbette 155mm.**

LAT, LONG: 59.976457°, -149.432719°

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Engineering

Period of Significance

1941-1944

Significant Dates

1941

1942

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euroamerican

Architect/Builder

West Construction Company

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Built from 1941 to 1944 atop towering cliffs rising from the west side of Resurrection Bay, Fort McGilvray is historically significant under Criterion A for its association with the defense of Alaska during World War II on national, state, and local levels. The fortification is also significant under Criterion C for its extraordinary engineering, as the area's extreme coastal environment presented the military with one of its most challenging construction tasks of the War. Although most buildings are dilapidated or in ruins and much of the area is overgrown, the gun mounts, bunkers, and lookouts are intact and retain excellent integrity. Collectively, enough structures survive to communicate the immediacy and importance of the U.S. military's defense efforts in Alaska. Because Fort McGilvray is now part of Caines Head Recreation Area, it stands out for its exceptional interpretive value and ability to tell the history of the Coastal Defense System in Resurrection Bay and the lesser-known story of Seward's strategic role in the supply line from the Lower 48 to Interior Alaska. Today, Fort McGilvray Historic District resembles its historic appearance and retains significant design features and aspects of construction dating to WWII. Importantly, it still holds the historical memory of the soldiers stationed there nearly eight decades ago, even if they can no longer share that history themselves. As one of the best-documented and most visited coastal defense installations in Alaska, Fort McGilvray can educate—even inspire—the public about the history of WWII in Alaska and has the power to immerse future generations in a wartime landscape. Finally, Fort McGilvray Historic District is significant under Criterion D. During a recent visit to the historic archeological site, state surveyors discovered that the as-built maps accurately represent most of the installation. Still, not all mapped features were re-located, and unmapped features were identified. Thus, further investigation may lead to additional information about military life at Caines Head during World War II.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

A. Alaska: From Last Frontier to Frontline of Defense during World War II

If Alaska is left undefended, then it is obvious that in any war in the Pacific, the Enemy will seize and take possession of the coast of Alaska in force.... Hence it is clear that really first-class defense stations on the coast of Alaska are vital to our safety. If the principle of getting there first with the most men is still a good strategy, as it undoubtedly is, then facilities for 1,000 fighting planes on the coast of Alaska will be a mighty factor in providing a defense of the North Pacific.

--Anthony Dimond, Alaska Delegate, in a speech to Congress in 1938

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

As military aggression engulfed Europe and Asia in the late 1930s, U.S. Armed Forces commenced the construction of a "hemisphere-wide" defense in the Pacific. The U.S. military established fortifications from San Diego to the Aleutian Islands to protect populated West Coast waterways. Alaska's proximity to Asia, combined with advancements in aircraft technology, made America's last frontier a frontline in shielding the West Coast against an enemy attack. The military rapidly constructed bases, airfields, and coastal defenses in Alaska, including the Seward Harbor Defense System in Resurrection Bay. The U.S. Army utilized Caines Head and other Resurrection Bay vantage points to protect the City of Seward—the Alaska Railroad's southern terminus and strategically vital, deep water, year-round, ice-free port. The massive military presence significantly impacted the local community, as Fort McGilvray's primary mission was to protect the Alaska Railroad—a strategic point in the supply line critical for the defense of the entire Territory. At the same time, Fort McGilvray is representative of the national military buildup of Alaska aimed at defending the West Coast of the United States from enemy attack and invasion. Thus, Fort McGilvray is significant for its association with the defense of Alaska on national, state, and local levels.

Stepping Stones from Asia: Alaska's Strategic Position before World War II

When the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, Secretary of State William Seward saw the northern territory and its far-flung Aleutian Islands as "stepping stones to Asia." However, by the turn of the 20th century, America's leading military strategists saw the Aleutians as "stepping stones from Asia" and a potential threat to the security of the United States. When the Russo-Japanese War broke out in 1904, the Army-Navy recommended that the U.S. retain Kiska Island as a naval reservation, reasoning that Alaska would be vital in a significant conflict with Japan. But enthusiastic public support for isolationism after the Great War influenced American military policy, even though Japan had shown signs of aggressive expansion since Theodore Roosevelt's administration. Responding to anti-armament sentiments stirred by the promise of being "the war to end all wars," the United States, Britain, Japan, France, and Italy negotiated the Washington Naval Treaty in 1922. The Treaty, among other naval restrictions, banned new bases and forbade the improvement of existing Pacific facilities controlled by the signatories. Exempt were new military bases in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Hawaii. Mainland Alaska and the Aleutians were not exempt.¹

In keeping with the general cutbacks, the military closed its Alaska forts, including Forts Egbert and Liscum, which two decades prior played vital roles in the building of the Valdez-Eagle Road and the laying of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS). Any realistic plan to place the Pacific Fleet in Alaska became moot, while Pearl Harbor became the center of operations for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater. Meanwhile, the treaty terms negotiated at Versailles in 1919 had come to be characterized as the "peace to end all peace,"

¹ Galen Roger Perras, *Stepping Stones to Nowhere: The Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and American Military strategy, 1867-1945*. (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2003), xi.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

as totalitarian regimes unleashed by the Great War's bitter end began to march across Europe and Asia. By the close of the 1920s, a few notables voiced concerns about Alaska's lack of defense. In his 1931 report to the Secretary of the Interior, Governor George Parks recognized that Alaska occupied an important strategic position because, as the governor argued, the northern Territory existed "on the only feasible air route to Asia."²

In 1934, Japan notified the United States that it would no longer uphold the Washington Treaty. Hearings held before the House Committee on Military Affairs that summer made clear to Congress that the great span of oceans was no longer a suitable defense of American shores. Testifying in support of military bases in Alaska was Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell, who warned Congressional leaders that Japan was "our dangerous enemy in the Pacific" and that they "will come right here to Alaska." Mitchell famously declared, "Alaska is the most central place in the world for aircraft," and therefore, "he who holds Alaska will rule the world."³

In March 1935, Alaska's non-voting delegate, Anthony Dimond, also pleaded with Congress to defend Alaska. Like Governor Parks and General Mitchell, Dimond reasoned that Alaska bridged "the Great Circle Route," the shortest distance between the United States and Asia. "Is it not obvious," Dimond asked the lawmakers, "that an enemy moving across the Pacific...would rather first invade Alaska?"⁴ Acknowledging categorically the need for the national defense works at Pearl Harbor, Dimond, nonetheless, argued it was not nearly enough to defend what he called the Panama-Hawaii-Alaska triangle.

Despite the rise of hostile global events such as the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the China-Japanese War in 1937, the annexation of Austria, the Munich Conference, and the cession of the Sudetenland in 1938, America's leaders continued to focus on domestic issues. "The time to install defense works in Alaska is now," Dimond urged Congress in 1938.⁵ The formation of the Tokyo-Rome-Berlin Axis and Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939, which marked the start of World War II, finally caught lawmakers' attention. In 1940, Congress granted appropriations for the Navy to build bases at Sitka, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor. The Army commenced construction of bases at Fairbanks, Anchorage, Annette Island, and Yakutat.

When Nazi Germany quickly swept through the Low Countries in the spring of that year, Congress responded by "sending guns, not sons" and passing the Lend-Lease Act on March 11, 1941. Lend-Lease promised to supply nations fighting the Axis powers with vast amounts of war material, particularly airplanes. With war looming, the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) focused on constructing an interior network of airfields. These fields eventually included Nome,

² U.S. Army Alaska. "The Army's Role in Building Alaska." Pamphlet 360-5. Washington D.C., 1969.

³ Perras, *Stepping Stones to Nowhere*, 30.

⁴ Dimond, Anthony J. "National Defense in Alaska." *National Aeronautics*. March 1940, 14-15.

⁵ Diamond, National Defense in Alaska, 1940.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Cordova, Juneau, Naknek, Bethel, Big Delta, McGrath, Moses Point, Galena, Gulkana, Tanacross, and Northway. Alaska's airfield construction could not have come at a better time. A few weeks later, Germany invaded the Balkan region. Then, in a startling demonstration of blind aggression and ethnic hatred, Hitler's armies attacked Russia on June 22, 1941, directly violating the German-Soviet Pact made in August 1939. By September, the German Luftwaffe had destroyed most of the Soviet Air Force. To prevent the Red Army from falling to the Nazis, the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union signed the Moscow Protocol on October 1, 1941, which extended the Lend-Lease pledge to the communist state.⁶

With Alaska's Arctic neighbor a mere fifty-five miles across the Bering Strait now under siege, Army intelligence officers cautioned that Imperial Japan might use the German invasion of Russia as an opportunity to destroy the Siberian bases. Experts warned that "Germany and Japan might act in concert to occupy Alaska and vanquish the Soviet Union and America simultaneously." To help defend Russian, and thereby America, the military transformed Alaska into an air bridge, known as the Alaska-Siberia Air Route. By 1942, American and Russian aviators began ferrying nearly 8,000 military aircraft and supplies across the Bering Strait by hopping a succession of strategically positioned airfields spanning 5,000 miles across two continents.

Vital, then, to the defense of the Pacific was the transport of war supplies to Alaska for building Army and Naval bases and Lend-Lease airstrips. In 1940, however, sea, land, and air routes that supplied Alaska from the states remained considerably limited and unreliable. The shortest and most dependable route was the Alaska Railroad, which, since 1923, served as the principal connection between the Lower 48 and Interior Alaska.

Alaska Life Line: The Alaska Railroad

Because it ran 475 miles from its southern terminal at Seward on the coast to Fairbanks deep in the interior, the Alaska Railroad was not simply a rail line—it was Alaska's life line.⁷ Construction of the railroad started in Seward in 1903 by the failed Alaska Central Railroad. The Alaska Northern Railroad Company extended the tracks soon after, but it busted as well. On the eve of the Great War, the federal government considered the Matanuska coal fields necessary for fueling the Navy's North Pacific Fleet. This prompted the construction of the only government-built railroad (except the Panama Canal Railway), starting in 1914. The federal rail line ran through Anchorage and served as the impetus for the non-Native settlement built on the edge of Cook Inlet's mudflats in 1915. In July 1923, President Warren G. Harding traveled to Alaska and drove in the golden spike at Nenana, a major railstop, and ceremoniously completed the Alaska Railroad.

⁶ For a discussion of Lend Lease, see *Alaska Skyboys*, 96-103.

⁷ Lisa Mighetto and Carla Homstad describe the Alaska Railroad as a "life line" in *Engineering in the Far North: A History of the U.S. Army Engineer District in Alaska, 1867-1992*. (Historical Research Associates, Inc. 1997), 55.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Due to Cook Inlet's extreme tidal fluctuations and other adverse conditions, when the United States mobilized for defense in the Far North in 1940, the War Department depended on the Alaska Railroad in Seward to carry the men, equipment, and supplies to build the major garrisons at Fort Richardson near Anchorage and Ladd Field outside Fairbanks. At railhead stops like Nenana, the cargo was transferred from rail cars to small steamers and barges and shipped even farther into hard-to-reach places via the Tanana River, a tributary of the Yukon, or the Kuskokwim River, traveling as far as McGrath, from mid-May to mid-September. Importantly, all materials, supplies, and soldiers that steamships carried to Alaska from the states passed through Seward on their way to tactical locations throughout the northern Territory. Without the Port of Seward, the flow of food, equipment, material, and men into Alaska would have been severely slowed, if not cut off completely.⁸

The Alaska Railroad's strategic importance and vulnerability to attack from hostile sea and air forces prompted the U.S. Army engineers to construct installations to protect Alaska's life line. In summer 1941, the Army implemented a Fixed Harbor Defense plan to defend the waterway leading to Seward. The plan called for the construction of three posts: Fort Raymond at Seward,⁹ Fort Bulkley on Rugged Island, with some facilities at Lowell Point, and Fort McGilvray at Caines Head and Rocky Point. The Army's mission of Seward's Harbor Defenses was threefold:

- 1) to provide effective seaward defense of the Port of Seward, comprising the docks, oil storage facilities, the terminus of Alaska Railroad, and such shipping, maritime or Naval as may be sheltered in the harbor;
- 2) to deny the enemy entrance to or occupation of a harbor or other waters which might serve as a base for land or naval operations or both; and
- 3) to keep the Enemy at such a distance from the entrance to the waterway that our naval forces may debouch therefrom and take up battle formation with least hostile interference."¹⁰

On December 7, 1941, Imperial Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and by early 1942, Japan looked to conquer the Pacific. The Imperial Japanese Navy and Naval Air Service invaded Guam,

⁸During World War II, the Army used the Alaska Railroad to transport military personnel, supplies, and construction materials between Seward, Whittier, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. To facilitate these activities and provide security for railroad operations, the 714th Railway Operating Battalion was assigned to operate the railroad in May of 1943 in cooperation with civilian railroad personnel.

⁹ Raymond housed 171 officers and over 3,000 enlisted men in the vicinity of downtown Seward.

¹⁰ "Supplement to the Harbor Defense Project Harbor Defense of Seward," September 9, 1947, in files of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Indochina, Thailand, Wake, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya, Java, and Burma. After capturing Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and New Caledonia, the U.S. feared Japan's next target to be Australia. By May 1942, less than six months after Pearl Harbor, the Philippines fell. On June 3, 1942, the War came to Alaska. The next day, on June 4—just three days before the planned attack of Midway Island—the Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians, and then on June 6 and 7, they invaded the islands of Kiska and Attu. The invasion resulted in placing foreign troops on American soil for the first time since the War of 1812.

Meanwhile, in April 1942, Congress appropriated \$7,900,000 to construct the Seward defenses. To military experts, it appeared that the Japanese were planning to use Alaska and the Aleutians as "stepping stones from Asia" to attack the West Coast, proving Dimond's warning true. The Alaska Defense Command considered the Harbor Defense posts essential for protecting Resurrection Bay and the Alaska Life Line, which carried needed supplies and manpower for constructing Lend-Lease airfields and other military defense installations. Together, at least for a time, Fort McGilvray and the other coastal posts made Seward the most fortified City on the Alaska Coast.¹¹

Fort McGilvray at Caines Head

In May 1941, the Navy recommended that the waterways fronting Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Sitka, and Seward be protected and harbor defenses installed. The Navy undertook construction efforts at Sitka, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor and tasked the Army Corps of Engineers with constructing fortifications at Seward. U.S. Army construction team arrived at Seward on June 30, 1941. By July 31, they began setting up accommodations for 227 men of A Battery of the 250th Coast Artillery Regiment from Camp McQuaide, in Watsonville, California. They arrived with four tractor-drawn 155-millimeter guns and antiaircraft guns. By the end of August, through Executive Order No. 8877, 4650 acres of public lands at Caines Head were "withdrawn for use of the War Department for Military Purposes."¹²

In those first few weeks, the men of Battery A started building the defense facilities out of native timber. They crafted a classic log cabin with double thick-walls that served as the communication shack and a log spotting and plotting room into the ground. They installed two log base end stations with coordinating guns—one atop a 200-foot bluff east of South Beach and another 300 feet up the craggy face of the Caines Head headland. To reach the stations, the troops build crude log ladders. Battery A of the 250th also constructed a pile-driven pier at South Beach, which they later removed.

¹¹ Mighetto, *Engineering in the Far North*, 62-63.

¹² "Supplement to the Harbor Defense Project Harbor Defense of Seward," September 9, 1947, in files of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Initially, the Alaska Defense Command determined that, under practical circumstances, the Corps could not build the Resurrection Bay fortifications for use by 1942, reasoning that "it would actually be an engineering feat to construct them at all."¹³ But that winter—on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Then, on June 3, 1942, Japanese forces bombed Dutch Harbor and subsequently invaded Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians. Military strategists warned that their position in the Aleutians gave the Japanese the ability to strike Alaska targets at will. If the Japanese gained additional territory in Alaska, they feared that the Enemy would launch an invasion of the West Coast.¹⁴ Therefore, the United States War Department responded by accelerating construction activity at Resurrection Bay to protect the vulnerable Alaska Railroad.

In July 1942, the West Construction Company contracted to work under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers, continued construction of the defense installations at Seward. All building materials and other supplies for Caines Head arrived by barge from Seward. Marine vessels docked at the North Beach pier, built by the first troops in 1941. Troops tasked with unloading supplies also constructed a storage yard with a warehouse, and two Quonset huts, which they used as enlisted men's barracks and mess hall. Alternatively, materials were lightered ashore at South Beach by smaller "J-boats."¹⁵

One of the first tasks assigned to the contractor was to blaze a 5.5-mile road system connecting the four areas: North Beach, Caines Head, South Beach, and Rocky Point. Blasting operations also commenced erecting Battery No. 293. The Battery, built atop the high bluff at Caines Head, gave watchful troops a panoramic view of maritime activity coming and going in Resurrection Bay. Battery No. 293 included two 6" guns on Barbette mounts, a large concrete bunker, and a fire control structure. Engineers installed five Igloo-type concrete anti-aircraft magazines and one elephant-style shelter along the road from North Beach to the Battery.

Meanwhile, the men of A Battery focused on assembling the standardized, sixty-three-man barracks, Quonset huts, and other support structures that eventually formed the South Beach Cantonment that sustained more than five hundred troops. Unlike the semi-ephemeral encampments established in 1941, the South Beach cantonment consisted of permanent buildings and complex systems. Replacing the log buildings and tents were a command post, officer's quarters, four two-story wood-frame barracks, infirmary, warehouses, mess halls,

¹³ *World War II in Alaska: A Historic and Resources Management Plan*. Prepared by Enviroshere Company. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Alaska District) and National Park Service. 1987.

¹⁴ For more information on U.S. Pacific strategy, see Perras, *Stepping Stones to Nowhere: The Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and American Military strategy, 1867-1945*. (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2003).

¹⁵ Jack Sinclair, "Turning the Forgotten into the Remembered: The Making of Caines Head State Recreation Area." In *Alaska At War, 1941-1945: The Forgotten War Remembered*, edited by Fern Chandonnet. (University of Alaska Press, 2008), 377-382.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

recreation building, leaching plant, and a dam and power houses. The intricate development included powerlines, sewer lines, water lines, and fire hydrants.

The final stage was the installation at Rocky Point, which housed only a handful of men. Rocky Point had four 155mm howitzers on Panama mounts (moved from South Beach), a magazine, submarine loop station, powerhouse, and barracks. There was an underground fire control center, five ammunition magazines, a searchlight control station, antiaircraft guns, and a radar station.

On December 14, 1942, 558 Selective-service personnel of the 267th Separate Coastal Artillery Regiment, many of whom were fresh off Pennsylvania farms, joined A Battery of the 250th Coast Artillery at Caines Head. In 1943, the 250th was redesignated and merged with the 267th Coastal Artillery as C Battery.

Tasked with a combination of jobs, from transportation and supplies, camp construction, communication, patrol to guard duties, the troops endured isolation and harsh conditions. When not on duty, "The Boys of the Beach" attended a USO event in Seward with Hollywood actress Ingrid Bergman and adopted an orphaned mountain goat named "Sargent Billy," who became a camp mascot. Park Ranger Jack Sinclair described military life underneath the northern rain forest canopy at Caines Head:

"The men spent their time detailed to the same work that was most probably happening in a thousand other areas of the Pacific: digging trenches, marching, drilling with large and small ordinance, fixing and repairing tools and equipment. Their play took on a similar role as well: hiking, fishing, badminton, trips to the movie house in Seward, ice skating, or gambling away another month's pay with cards or dice in the barracks."¹⁶

In addition to having national and territorial significance, Fort McGilvray and the other Harbor Defense sites dramatically impacted the coastal town they were charged with protecting. In June 1940, Seward's waterfront bustled with arriving and departing ships. Seward profited heavily from hauling military and civilian supplies and materials—a benefit facilitated by the improvements made to the dock by the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to the waterfront upgrade, the Corps built new docks, a tank farm, storage structures, and unloading facilities, especially for petroleum. A CAA airfield and a naval facility were also built. The military hired local labor to conduct the construction work, which gave the local economy an enormous boost. Besides the added infrastructure and amenities, Seward's commerce benefited from the population boom, which increased from 3,000 to 9,000 between 1940 and 1944. Two thousand-plus troops patronized local businesses and provided an endless source of revenue

¹⁶ Sinclair, 381.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

for the ladies of Seward's Red Light District known as The Line.¹⁷ Although Fort McGilvray was not directly accessible to Seward, troops could travel by boat and spent time in town on leave.¹⁸

On March 25, 1943, the Army designated the installations at Caines Head as "Fort McGilvray," named after Army Captain John McGilvray, commander of Alaska's Fort Kenay, from 1869 to 1870. Over two years, Fort McGilvray housed 2,000 troops, who defended Resurrection Bay from what they believed to be an imminent attack. But, despite Japan's occupation in the Aleutians, representing a clear and present danger, no attack or actual combat took place at Fort McGilvray or any of the other Seward defense sites. The Navy, which had operated the Port of Seward as a submarine cable landfall and communications node, reported sightings of enemy submarines in the Gulf of Alaska off Fort Bulkley at Rugged Island. The detections, however, never initiated countermeasures. After American forces retook Attu and Kiska from the Japanese in 1943, the threat of military action in the North Pacific diminished.

While the men assigned to Fort McGilvray kept building and standing sentinel over the north Pacific waterway, work on defense installations slowed down exponentially across the Pacific Theater. The Navy turned over port jurisdiction to the Coast Guard in July 1943. Meanwhile, the Army's interest shifted to Whittier, an ice-free harbor at the end of Passage Canal in Prince William Sound, on the east side of the Chugach Mountains. Since 1941, West Construction Company had been constructing a railroad spur along a portage route through the mountains, to Whittier, to augment Seward's port facilities. Engineers built a military port and fuel depot on a small alluvial plain clinging to the edge of the Pacific. Remarkably, they blasted two tunnels through the Chugach Mountains to allow rail access to Whittier. Once completed in 1943, the long tunnel to Whittier, at nearly three miles in length, became the longest tunnel in the United States and the fourth-longest in the world. The 714th Railway Operating Battalion was assigned to operate the railroad in May of 1943 in cooperation with civilian railroad personnel to provide security for operations between Seward, Whittier, and Anchorage. The new railroad branch significantly impacted Seward, undercutting the seaport's economic success and strategic importance.¹⁹

With the opening of the Whittier Cutoff in 1943, the Japanese retreat from the North Pacific by 1944, compounded by exorbitant construction costs (\$4,727,00 for the fixed harbor defenses), the Alaska Defense Command sent orders for the dismantling of the entire harbor defenses of Seward. At the time, Fort McGilvray was 90 percent complete. With focus turning to Allied advancements on the Western Front, the Army abandoned Fort McGilvray on April 7, 1944. They shipped the guns to South Dakota, Texas, and San Diego, California, and left the buildings to endure the volatile Resurrection Bay weather. Seward's economy slipped into postwar

¹⁷ National Park Service, *Regulated Vice: A History of Seward's Red Light District, 1914-1954*. (Anchorage: Alaska Regional Office, 2002), 31-32.

¹⁸ Reunion of the 267th and 250th Coast Artillery Battalion in Seward, Alaska on July 22-23. 1990.

¹⁹ Mighetto, *Engineering in the Far North*, 64-68.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

decline while the surrounding forest reclaimed the army roads and camps at Caines Head. With victory in Europe in May and victory over Japan in August, at the end of WWII in September 1945, Fort McGilvray was largely forgotten.

At the cusp of the modern environmental movement in 1971, the newly created State of Alaska Division of Parks selected 1800 acres on the west side of Resurrection Bay to create Caines Head State Recreation Area for outdoor enthusiasts. In 1974, the park expanded to include 4,000 additional acres. In 1984, park staff visited Caines Head to clear the old army road. In the process, they discovered the concrete fortress atop Caines Head, hidden among the alder and spruce for nearly two decades. Virtually untouched, Fort McGilvray proved to be one of the most well-preserved batteries in Alaska.

In the end, Imperial Japan advanced no farther than the Aleutians, combat never occurred in Resurrection Bay, and soldiers stationed there were far removed from the battlefield. Still, Fort McGilvray is historically significant and qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. WWII physically transformed the City of Seward, causing an economic boom and bust. Most importantly, in the years that Fort McGilvray protected Seward, massive amounts of supplies and materials for building military bases and Lend Lease airstrips passed through the port unscathed. American pilots flew 8,000 planes, including 2,618 Bell P39 Aircobras and 2,397 Bell P63 Kingcobras to Alaska using those Lend-Lease airstrips. At bases in Fairbanks and Nome, Russian pilots flew the aircraft across the Siberian wilderness to the Eastern Front for immediate engagement against the German Luftwaffe. The establishment of the Northern Route and the ferrying of the vital war supplies to Russia was tactically important in the Pacific Theater by keeping key terrain out of enemy hands and turning the tides of war in Europe.²⁰ The fact that fighting never came to Resurrection Bay does not mean that the Fort lacks significance. Conversely, the victory of Lend-Lease meant that the mission succeeded, and men stationed at Fort McGilvray did their job.

Today, the extant military features protected by Caines Head State Recreation Area represent the military presence in Resurrection Bay, a piece of the vast defense network needed to protect the West Coast in World War II in the Pacific. The remaining structures embedded in the rugged coastal environment continue to convey the experience of the 250th and 267th Coastal Artillery Regiments, even if most servicemen are no longer alive to share their stories. Together, the remains of Fort McGilvray tell visitors the powerful story of how Alaska moved from America's Last Frontier to a frontline of defense during World War II.

²⁰ Ringsmuth, 100-103.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Criterion C: Engineering Fort McGilvray

Fort McGilvray is an engineering achievement. While the installation is largely in ruins, the fortification design is evident through the earthworks, building foundations, and cement construction that remains. Fort McGilvray was designed to blend with the landscape and position the defensive fortification as effectively as possible in challenging terrain in order to protect Resurrection Bay. Speed and the necessity of using the native vegetation for screening encouraged minimal development of the installation's footprint and working with the landscape to site buildings and roads. This approach is in contrast to other WWII installations in Alaska that cleared vegetation and flattened large expanses to construct on a grid pattern. This minimal impact approach is also demonstrated in the use of ladders to access searchlights and other emplacements high on the capes at Fort McGilvray.

Fort McGilvray is significant under Criterion C for engineering for the practical application of the design, construction, and operation of the entire Fort McGilvray - Battery 293 facility. The first factor underscoring the engineering achievements at Fort McGilvray is the accelerated timeline forced upon the design engineers as a direct result of Congressional hesitancy leading up to World War II.

The second was the environment. The Army Corps was charged with the construction of a harbor defense system at several locations around Resurrection Bay and on the islands at the mouth of the bay. The system included the installation of two 6-inch batteries at Caines Head and Rugged Island, each with searchlight positions, supporting fire control appurtenances, and necessary housing at Rocky Point, Topeka Point, Carol Cove, Chamberlain Point, Barwell Island, and Alma Point. Engineers installed seacoast radar installations at Patsy Point on Rugged Island and South Beach and four high lines at Barwell Island, Chamberlain Point, Carol Cove, and Alma Point. Facilities were built at all the sites to house officers and enlisted men.

Constructing these facilities challenged the engineers' ingenuity and tested their physical abilities. Colonel Bush described the defense sites as "predominantly granite, rising abruptly out of deep water and terminating in precipitous points and escarpments." He considered the entire coastline of Resurrection Bay to be "so rugged and formidable as to preclude the possibility of landing sustaining troops in any force, without very elaborate preparations, equipment, and supply lines."²¹

The waters of Resurrection Bay are a branch of the cold and violent seas of the Gulf of Alaska. Seward is surrounded by steeply rising mountains and islands surrounding it. Protective island physical barriers. West Construction Company, the military's civilian engineering contractor,

²¹ Alaska Defense Command. *Narrative Report of Alaska Construction 1941-1944*. By Lt. Col. James D. Bush Jr. Washington D.C., 1943.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

started work on July 20 on what was to be one of the most challenging, expensive, and hazardous constructions of defense facilities anywhere in the world during World War II.²²

Battery 293 Command Station

The fixed defense construction at Seward, including the construction of Battery 293, began in July 1942 by West Construction Company. Construction included: concrete battery emplacement; gun plugs; underground bomb-proof magazines; battery commander's and base end stations; searchlight and powerplant shelters; electric control stations and seacoast radar units for fire control and seaward surveillance.²³ Under normal conditions, the construction of Fort McGilvray would have still been an achievement. Building a military defense position in such inhospitable conditions, in a short timeframe within small weather windows, is an engineering marvel. The following describes how some of these systems were constructed.

With the construction of a pioneer road from North Beach to shuttle equipment and materials up the 600-foot mountain, construction on the concrete command station at Battery 293 could begin. Equipment included a large diesel-powered shovel and a crawler type-tractor such as Caterpillar D-8. The D-8 was used for logging or freighting food and supplies. Smaller tractors such as the D-4 were used as a bulldozer, snowplow, or pulling freight. Carryall scrapers were also used in road construction. The equipment was subject to heavy use, and it was important to carefully select equipment to reduce operation and maintenance delays. However, maintaining a supply of spare parts for this equipment was a difficult task due to the extreme location. Equipment was operated by men in inexperienced with these severe conditions. They worked in high wind, driving snow, deep snow, and often intense cold before the roads were constructed.²⁴

To begin construction of the command station, Caines Head was logged, cleared, and scraped to make way for excavation. A large diesel-powered shovel was used to excavate the precarious cliff area. Concrete forms were constructed to pour floating foundation basement walls for the command station. Rebar, shipped from Seattle, was added to the forms to reinforce the concrete walls. Concrete work required hauling truckloads of gravel from South Beach and combining it with lime and other materials shipped to Caines Head from Seattle. A large onsite concrete mixer was used to mix the concrete and then pump it into the wooden wall forms. After the forms were stripped from the command station, the entire battery was backfilled. The only structures visible after backfilling were the main command station with gun sight windows and the two-gun shields. Hauling the gun shields to the gun mounts required several tractors skidding the gun mounts up Caines Head by manually moving wooden track in front to reduce friction. Under construction, while the area was completely devoid of vegetation, the command

²² *Caines Head State Recreational Area Management Plan*, Kenai Area Parks Office, 1986, 15-17.

²³ P. 344-345

²⁴ Alaska Defense Command. *Narrative Report of Alaska Construction 1941-1944*. By Lt. Col. James D. Bush Jr. Washington D.C., 1943.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

station was fully exposed to visual reconnaissance from the air. However, once snow covered the structure, only the vent pipes were visible sticking out above the snow.

At Rocky Point, the Base End Station was constructed on a rock outcropping high above the bay. To pour concrete, a tram (also called a skipway) with a bucket was constructed to lift mixed concrete several hundred feet up the mountain. After the bucket of concrete arrived at the top of the mountain, it was loaded into wheelbarrows and hand-placed into the wooden foundation forms.

To defend the Seward shipping port and Naval Operating Base, 155 mm guns were mounted on Panama Mounts. The gun mounts were constructed of an emplacement (a platform or defended position where a gun is placed for firing) that included a center concrete plug upon which the gun rested. This plug was then surrounded by an outer concrete circular curb upon which the spade plates traverse.²⁵

Speaking to the extraordinary construction conditions in Resurrection Bay was the Army Corps of Engineers' Lieutenant Colonel James D. Bush Jr., who, in his Report of Alaska Construction: 1941 by wrote of the Harbor Defense, wrote:

"Barwell Island, Rugged Island, Topeka Point Rocky Point, and Caines Head, all in the vicinity of Seward on the southern coast of the Alaska mainland, are predominately granite, rising abruptly out of deep water and terminating in precipitous points and escarpments. This is typical of the entire coastline near Seward on Resurrection Bay. In fact, it is so rugged and formidable as to preclude the possibility of landing and sustaining troops in any force without very elaborate preparations, equipment, and supply lines. It is even difficult and hazardous to land a survey party except during calm weather and during certain stages of the tide. The places where such landings can be made are few."

Perhaps construction at Caines Head was an easier task than the fortifications at Fort Bulkley on Rugged Island, but it is still regarded as a major engineering feat to this day.

Criterion D: Uncovering Fort McGilvray Historic Archeological Resources

Archival information and oral histories are available to interpret existing resources and explain how the military used the built-environment. But these reference materials may not contain all the information potential at Fort McGilvray. Unofficial uses of the lands by personnel in off-hours were not recorded on official documents, and oral histories were not collected from

²⁵ Alaska Defense Command. *Narrative Report of Alaska Construction 1941-1944*. By Lt, Col. James D. Bush Jr. Washington D.C., 1943.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

every service member. Information about the lives of service personnel stationed at Fort McGilvray may be discovered through the continued investigation of the ruins and earthworks. Vegetation patterns disturbance-related succession are still evident, enabling the identification of unmapped use areas. Graffiti and other means of personal expression have been found at other installations and may be found at Fort McGilvray. The property may also contain information about the abandonment of the installation, which will be useful to compare to other fortifications. Therefore, the discarded buildings, structures, and objects at Fort McGilvray may still yield information about military lifeways in Resurrection Bay and Alaska's role during World War II.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alaska Defense Command. *Narrative Report of Alaska Construction 1941-1944*. By Lt. Col. James D. Bush Jr. Washington D.C., 1943.

Dimond, Anthony J. "National Defense in Alaska." *National Aeronautics*. March 1940, 14-15.

Dod, Karl. C. *The Corps of Engineers: The War Against Japan*, Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1987.

Mighetto, Lisa and Carla Homstad. *Engineering in the Far North: A History of the U.S. Army Engineer District in Alaska, 1867-1992*. Historical Research Associates, Inc. 1997.

National Park Service, *Regulated Vice: A History of Seward's Red Light District, 1914-1954*. Anchorage: Alaska Regional Office, 2002, 31-32.

Parshall, Johnathan, and Anthony Tully. *Shattered Sword: The Untold Story of the Battle of Midway*. Washington D.C.: Potomac Books. 2007.

Perkins, Richard and Combs, Sam, *Fort McGilvray Structure Survey, North Beach Garrison*. Anchorage, Alaska: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, 1981.

Perkins, Richard and Combs, Sam, *Fort McGilvray Structure Survey, South Beach Garrison*. Anchorage, Alaska: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, 1981.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Perras, Galen Roger. *Stepping Stones to Nowhere: The Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and American Military strategy, 1867-1945*. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2003.

Ringsmuth, Katherine Johnson. *Alaska's Skyboys: Cowboy Pilots and the Myth of the Last Frontier*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015.

Sinclar, Jack. *Caines Head State Recreation Area Management Plan*. Anchorage, Alaska: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, 1997.

_____. "Turning the Forgotten into the Remembered: The Making of Caines Head State Recreation Area." In *Alaska At War, 1941-1945: The Forgotten War Remembered*, edited by Fern Chandonnet. University of Alaska Press, 2008, 377-382.

"Supplement to the Harbor Defense Project Harbor Defense of Seward, September 9, 1947," in files of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

U.S. Army Alaska. "The Army's Role in Building Alaska." Pamphlet 360-5. Washington D.C., 1969.

World War II in Alaska: A Historic and Resources Management Plan, Vol. 1. Prepared by Enviroshere Company. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Alaska District) and National Park Service. 1987.

Video Recordings

Reunion of the 267th and 250th Coast Artillery Battalion in Seward, Alaska on July 22-23. 1990. Alaska Film Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Revisit South Beach Caines Head Fort McGilvray, 1990. Alaska Film Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ____ previously listed in the National Register
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☒ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHR)
SEW-0040, XBS-00013, XBS-00039

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 700 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude : 60.009464 Longitude: -149.406296
2. Latitude: 60.003244 Longitude: -149.396644
3. Latitude : 59.994634 Longitude: -149.386898
4. Latitude: 59.982027 Longitude: -149.385755
5. Latitude : 59.983980 Longitude: -149.404675
6. Latitude: 59.983512 Longitude: -149.415933
7. Latitude : 59.979844 Longitude: -149.426580
8. Latitude: 59.971385 Longitude: -149.425068
9. Latitude : 59.971363 Longitude: -149.434671
10. Latitude: 59.982493 Longitude: -149.433915
11. Latitude: 59.991419 Longitude: -149.408034

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

12. Latitude : 60.002648 Longitude: -149.402746

13. Latitude : 60.008524 Longitude: -149.410550

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the military sites, buildings, structures, and roads that comprised Fort McGilvray. The Historic District includes North Beach, Rocky Point, South Beach, and Caines Head. These four areas constitute the State of Alaska's Caines Head State Recreation Site.

The Fort McGilvray Historic District encompasses all lands that are known to have improvements made to them in support of the Seward Harbor Defense mission during World War II along North Beach, Caines Head, South Beach, and Rocky Point. This stretches from the enlisted men's barracks on the far north side of North Beach to the Rocky Point battery in the south. All roads that were used to circulate through the Fort are included and provide the western boundary except for places where there are buildings to the west. The coastline provides the eastern boundary.

See Site Map for boundary details.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The resources at Fort McGilvray Historic District collectively provide a clear picture of the mission, how it was carried out, and how it was experienced by the men who constructed and served at this location. For this reason, all four areas should be considered together as a single historic district. The varying features of each area help convey what life was like for the

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

servicemen. Although natural conditions have reduced the barracks, mess halls, and latrines to their foundations and rubble piles, they still portray the daily living conditions and the thorough planning and dedication to carrying out the mission of harbor defense for however long the threat to national security persisted.

The district design and construction techniques illustrate the urgency and purpose of building it. The fort's construction shows the ingenuity required to carry out such a large operation in such a short amount of time under inhospitable conditions. Therefore, the boundary for this Fort McGilvray encompasses all associated military features, while the coastline provided the embarkation points and the advantages to carry out the mission.

See Site Map for boundary details.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Burmeister, Park Specialist, with support from Office of History and Archeology Staff

organization: Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation

street & number: 334 4th Ave., P.O. Box 1578

city or town: Seward state: Alaska zip code: 99664

e-mail michael.burmeister@alaska.gov

telephone: 907.422.7155

date: November 17, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Fort McGilvray Historic District

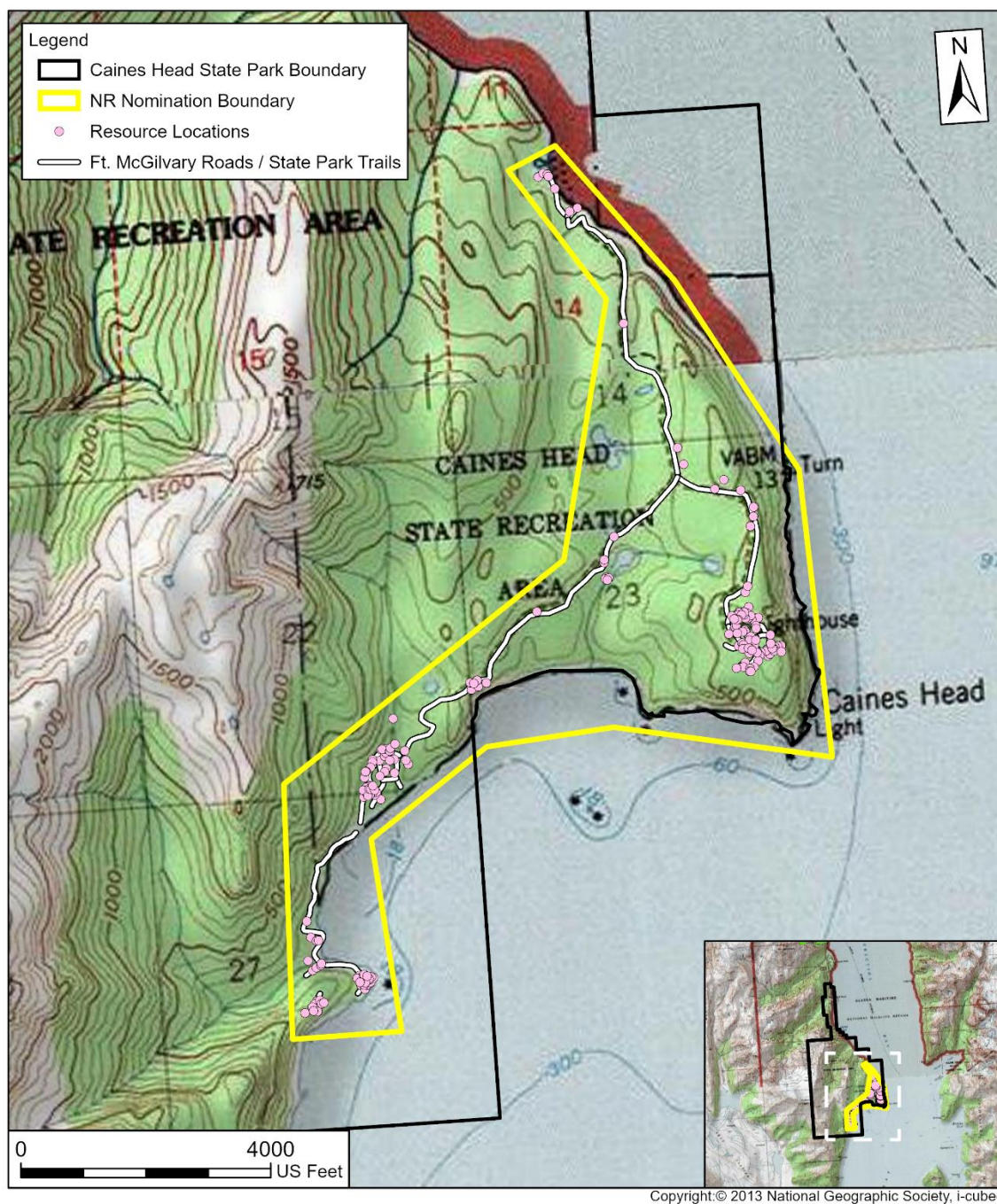


Figure #2: Overview of Boundary and Resource Locations

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Fort McGilvray Historic District

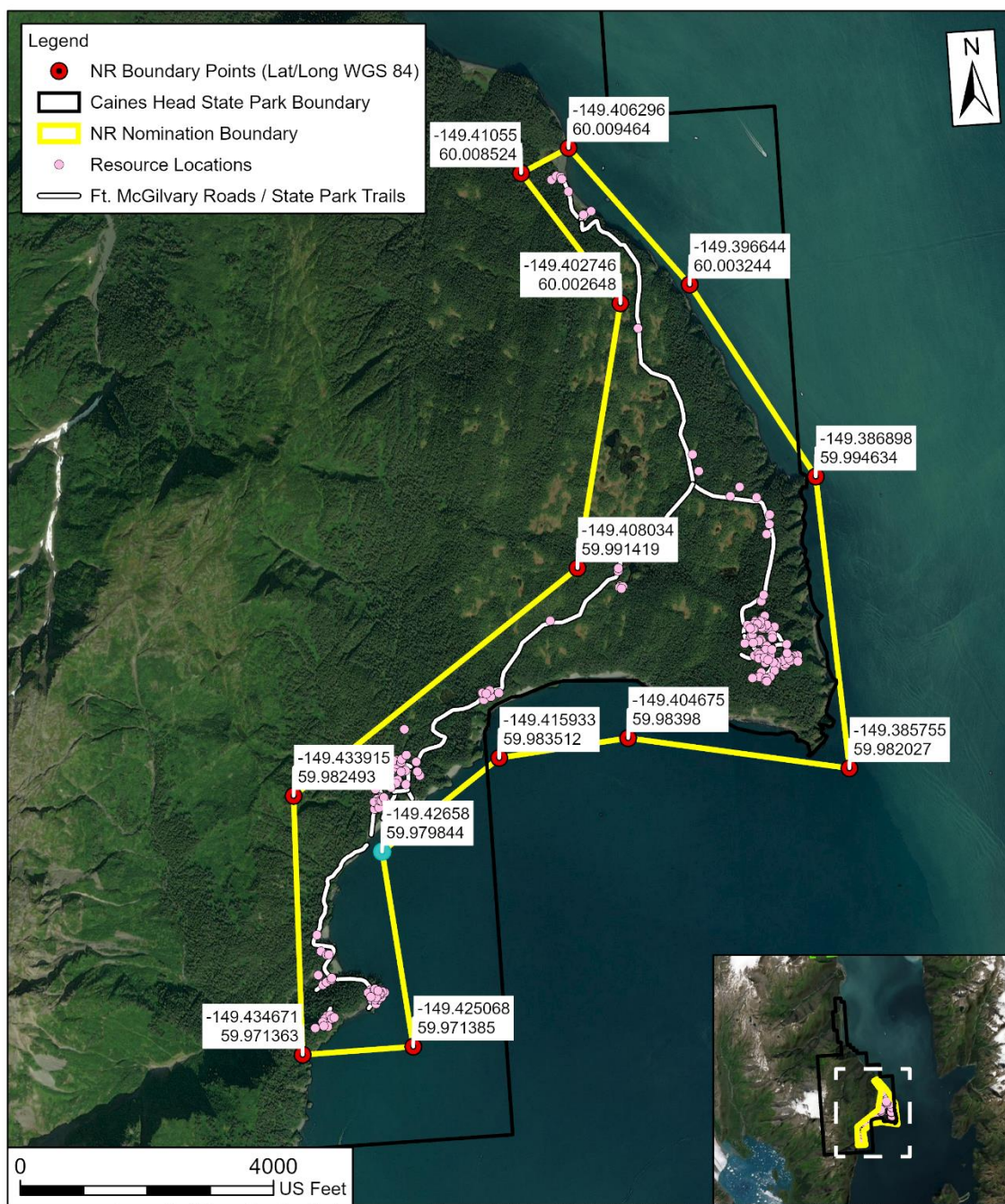


Figure #3 National Register Boundary Coordinates

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Fort McGilvray Historic District

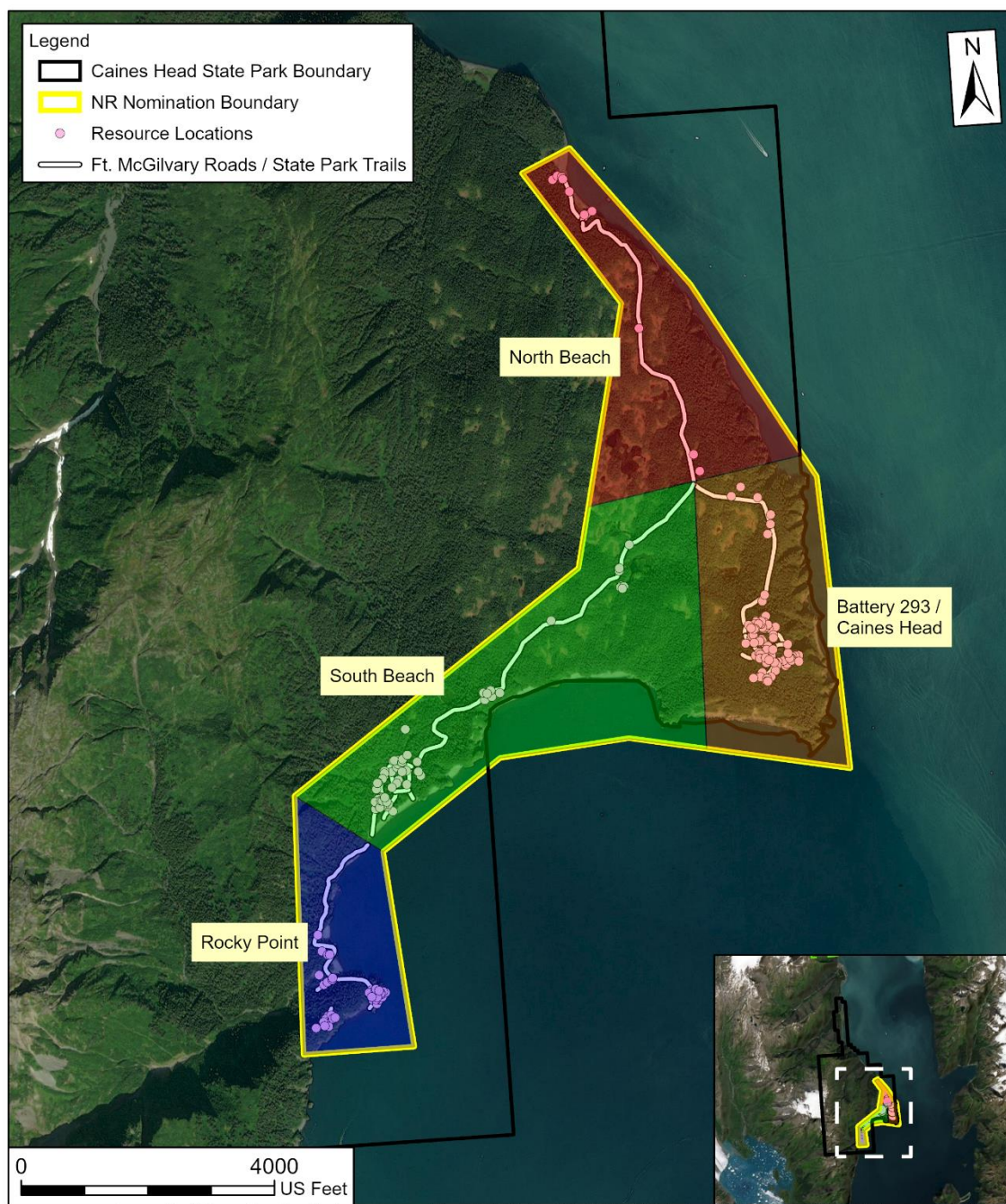


Figure #4 District Areas

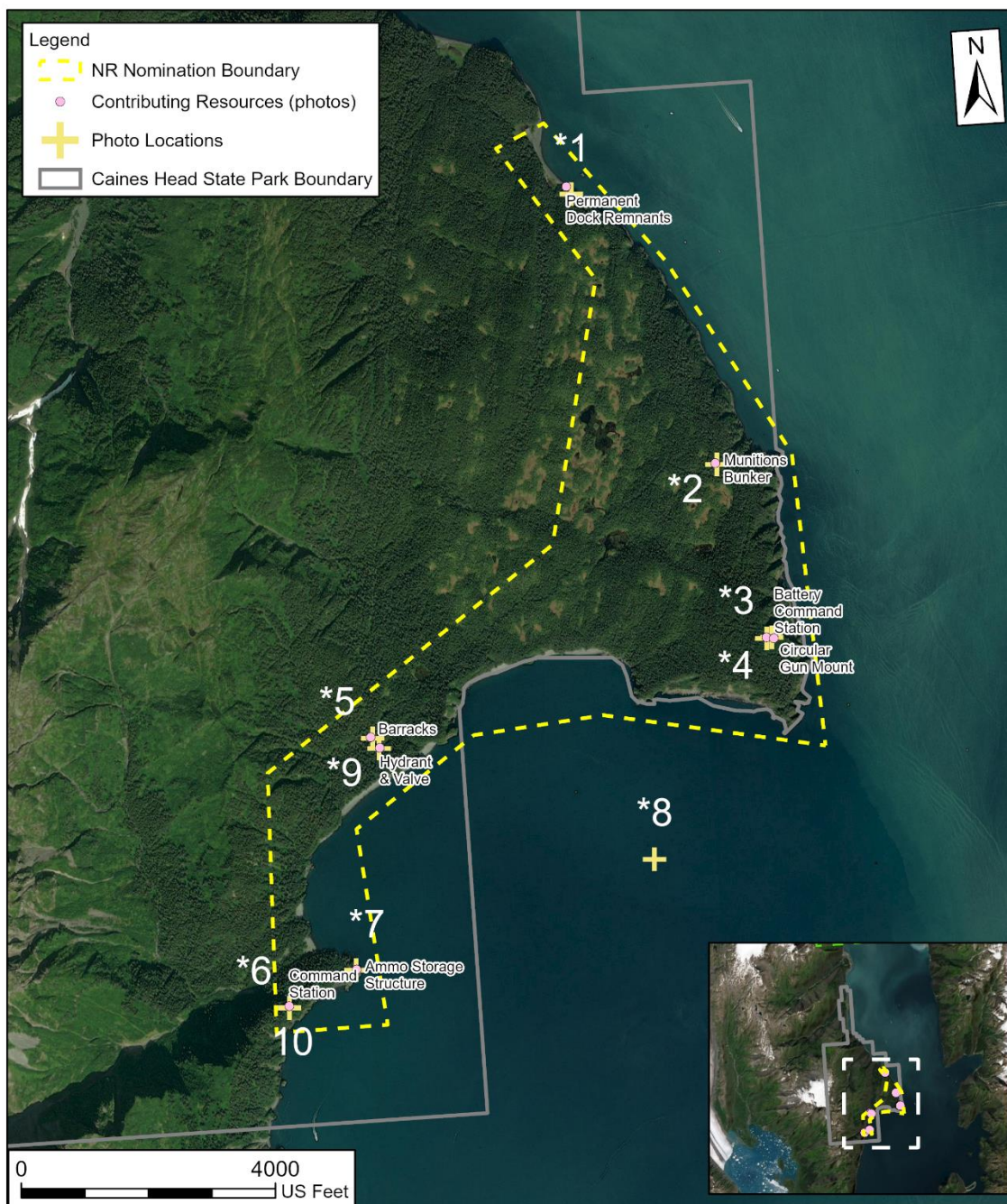
Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Fort McGilvray Historic District



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

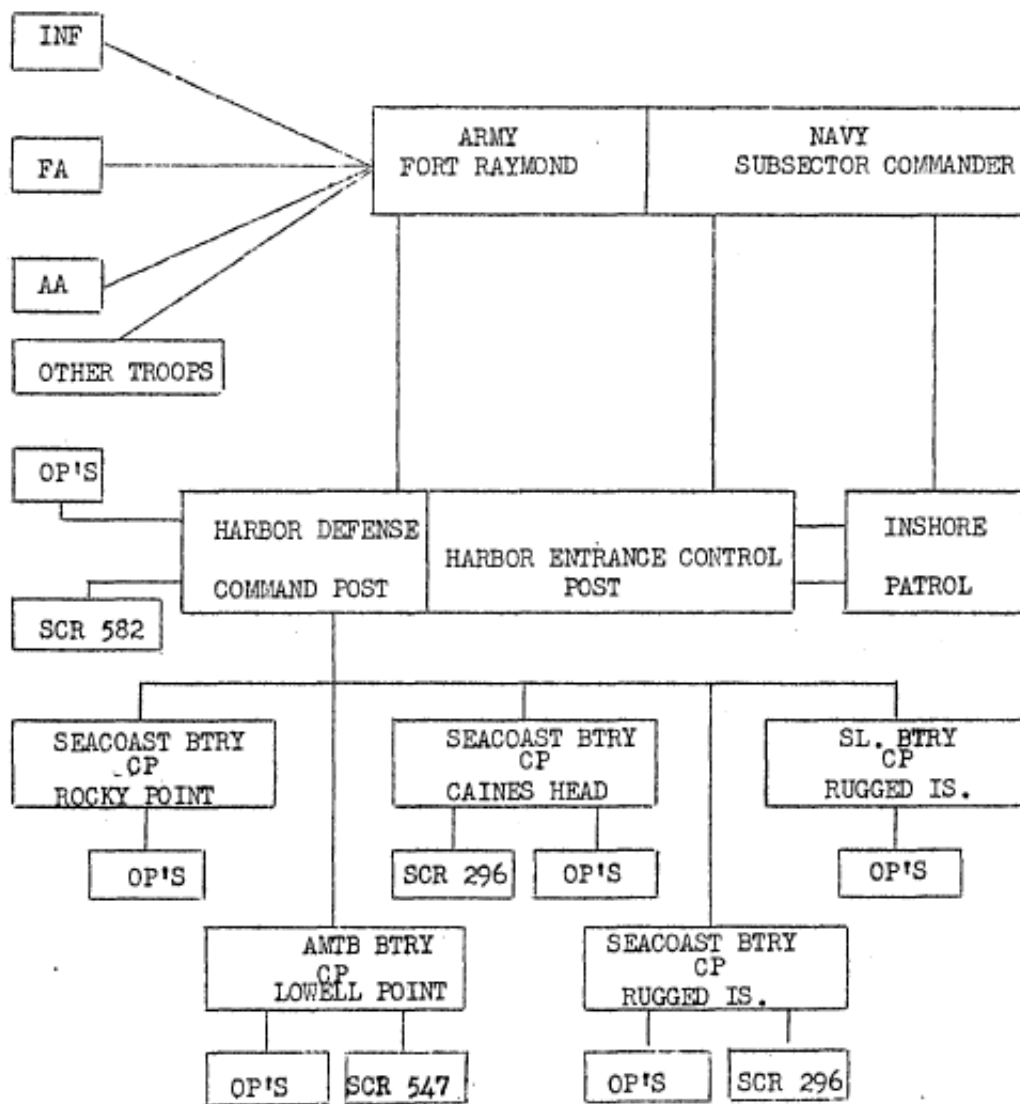
Figure #5 Photo Locations and Associated Contributing Resources

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



S E C R E T

Figure #7 A diagram showing the organization as set forth in General Order No. 105, Headquarters Alaska Defense Command, 29 June 1943, In "Supplement to the Harbor Defense Project Harbor Defense of Seward, September 9, 1947," in files of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

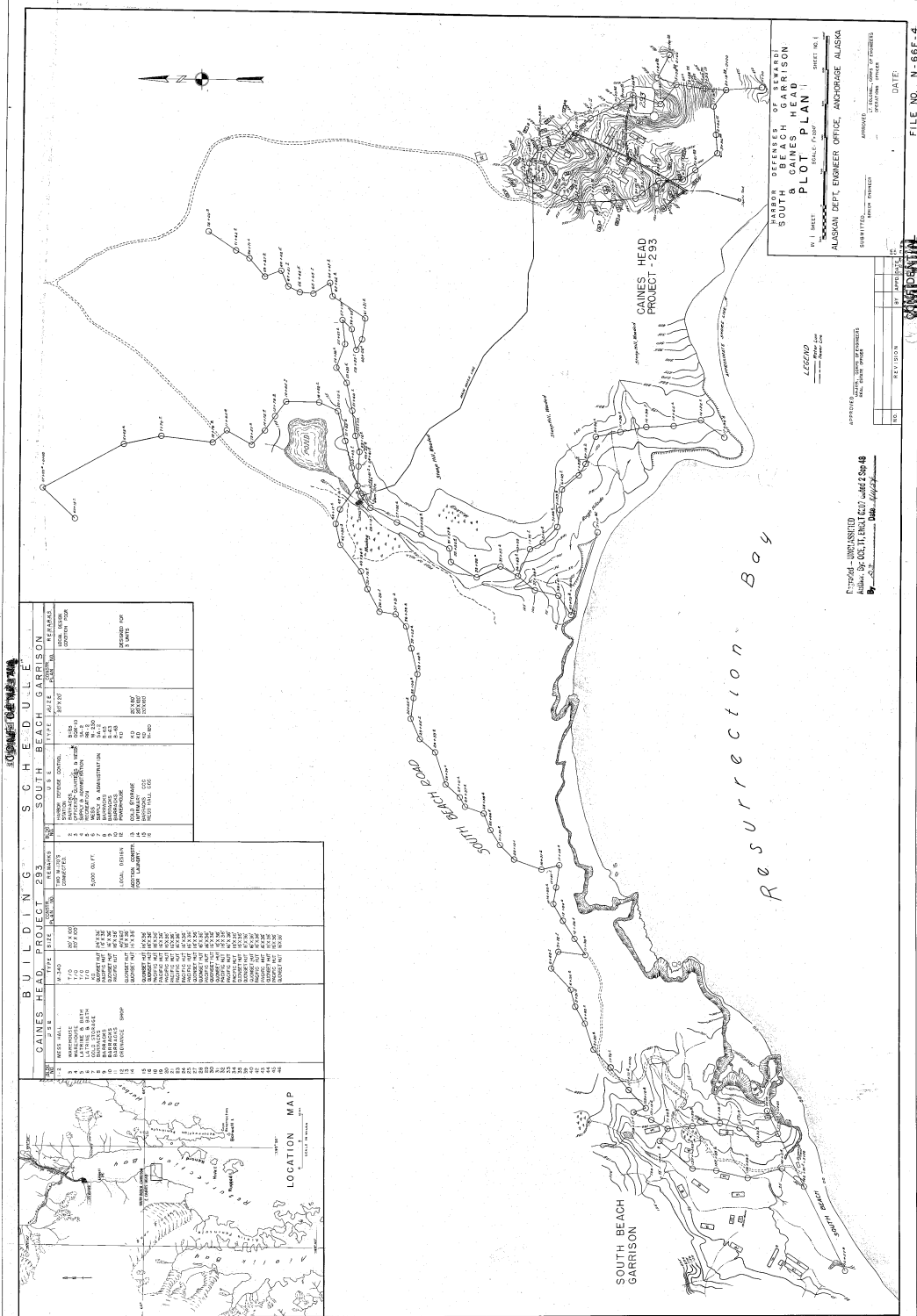


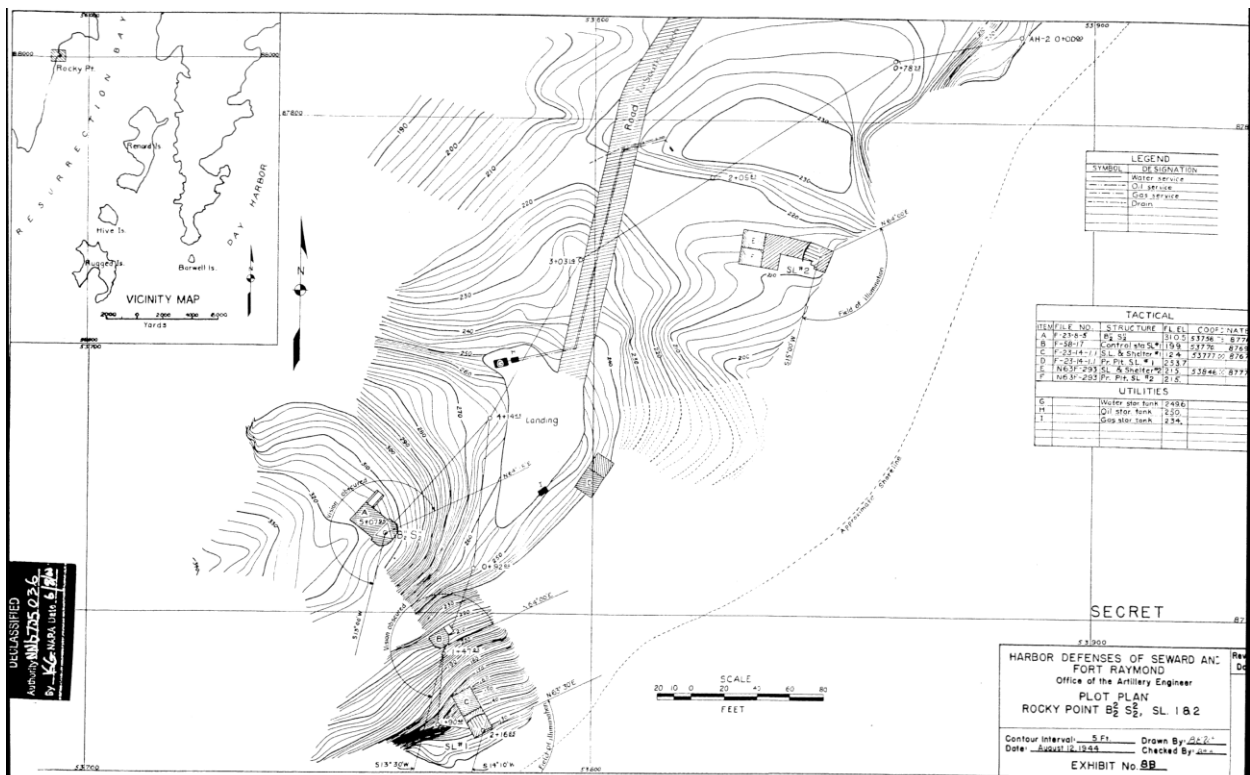
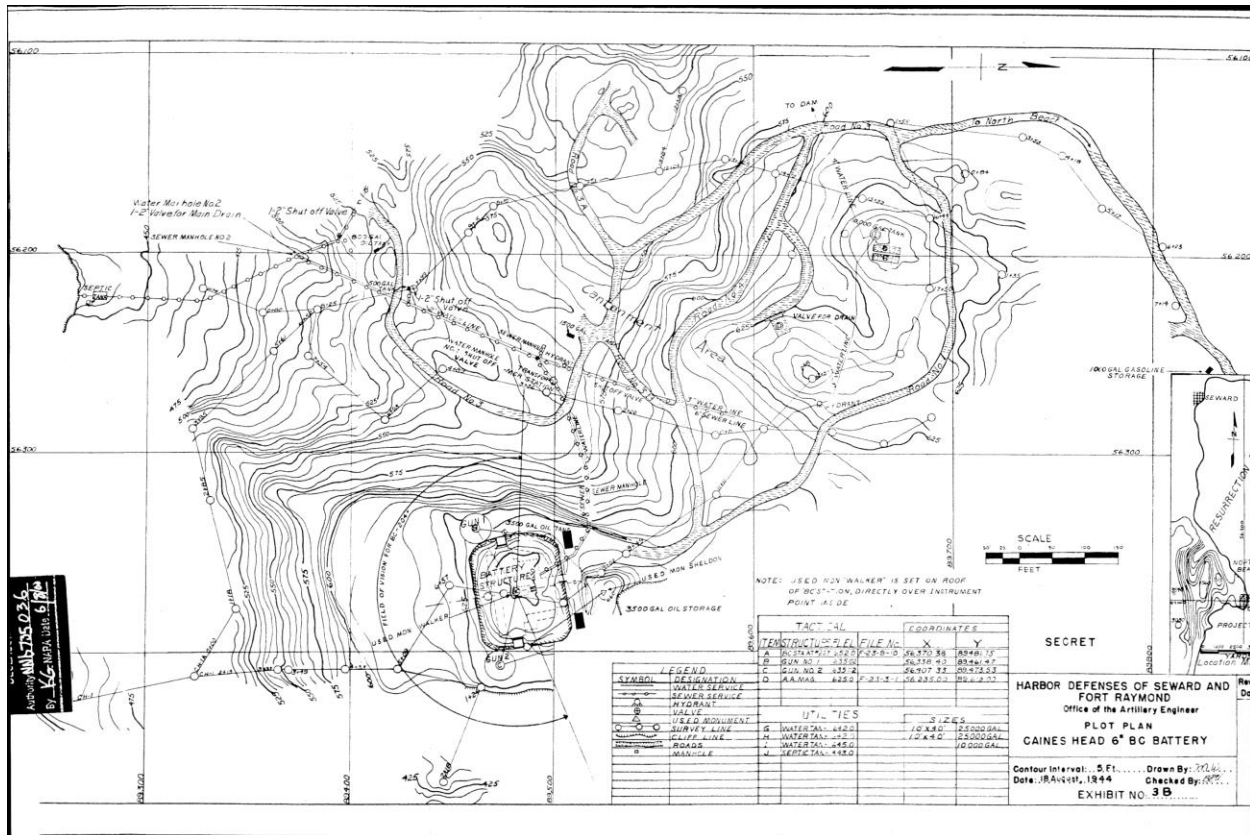
Figure #8 Harbor Defense of Seward: South Beach Garrison and Caines Head Plot Plan, 1948.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



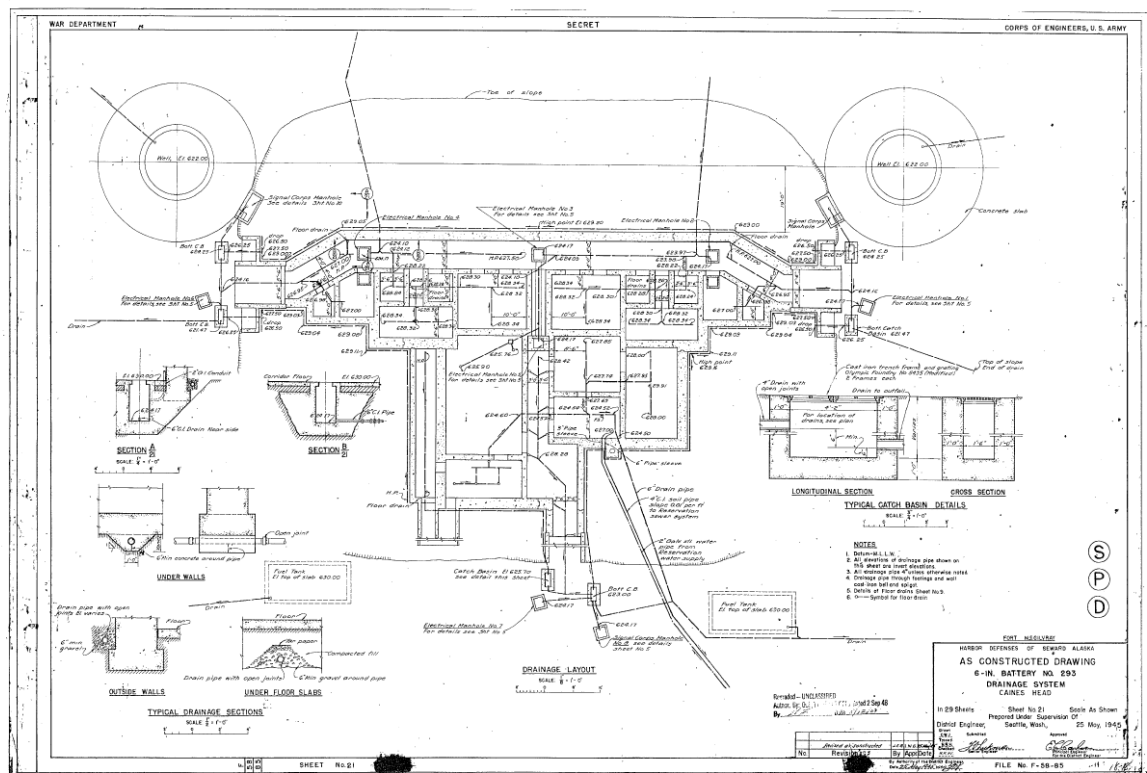
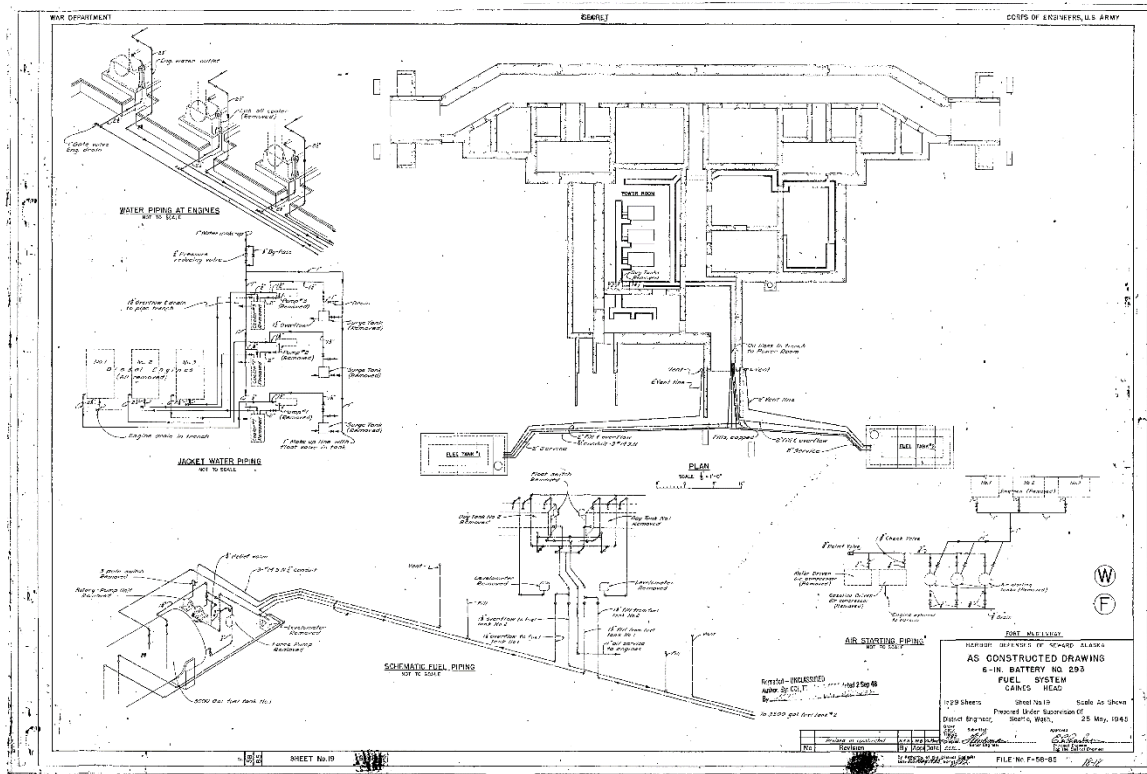
Figures #9 and #10 Caines Head and Rock Point As-Built Maps, 1944.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Figures #11 and #12 Battery 293 As Built Drawings, 1945.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs



Name of Property: North Beach Army Dock

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo taken facing northeast from North Beach Road at approximately 100 ft elevation.

1 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: War Reserve Bunker

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo of the façade of one of the War Reserve Munitions Bunker along Road No. 1 on the way to Battery 293.

2 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: 6-inch gun barbette mount, Battery 293

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo taken facing southeast from Battery 293 of the east gun mount, atop Caines Head overlooking Resurrection Bay.

3 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Exterior of Command Station

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo taken of the Command Station observation windows facing north on top of Battery 293.

4 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Barracks at South Beach Cantonment

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo taken of the enlisted men's barracks ruins that abuts the steep hillside at South Beach Cantonment area facing west.

5 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Command Station Interior at Rocky Point

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo of the wall-mounted bunk frames on the northeast wall and the remnants of the communications equipment on the northwest wall of the Base End Command Station at Rocky Point

6 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Munitions Storage at Rocky Point Battery

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Photo taken facing east of the munitions storage that supplied the two 6-inch gun and the two 155mm guns that were mounted on the other side of the far cement wall.

7 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Caines Head Bluff

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): View of Caines Head bluff facing north from Rocky Point.

8 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: South Beach Fire Hydrant

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): Fire hydrant and water utilities access found in the South Beach cantonment.

9 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Wooden Chair in Rocky Point Command Station

City or Vicinity: Seward

County: Kenai Peninsula

State: Alaska

Photographer: Office of History and Archeology staff

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s): This chair was built by service men who were stationed at Rocky point. It is made of boards from ammunition boxes and the identifying marks are still legible.

10 of 10.

Fort McGilvray

Kenai Peninsula, AK

Name of Property

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.